THE

North-China Herald

AND

SUPREME COURT & CONSULAR GAZETTE.

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San Francisco, ...	„ 21	Yokohama, ...	„ 15
Hongkong, ...	Apr. 24	Nagasaki, ...	„ 19
Tientsin, ...	„ 25	Foochow, ...	„ 20

Latest Mail dates in England, from China.

Hongkong, ... Feb. 1
Shanghai, ... Jan. 25
} Received 8th March.

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The North-China Herald.

IMPARTIAL, NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 1879.

To judge from the few stray notices which now and then come from St. Petersburg, it would seem that the Chinese Ambassador has been trying diplomacy, and that an offensive and defensive alliance has been offered to him as the price of the rendition of Ili. As neither side is probably sincere in the matter, but each is trying to get substantial advantages in return for mere promises, it is scarcely likely, however, that the negotiations will have a more practical effect than affording at some future and more convenient season a plea for some further action on the part of Russia in Central or Eastern Asia. Russia hardly believes that in the event of a war with England being precipitated by the restlessness of her troublesome classes, the alliance of China would be a source of strength; while on the other hand her diplomatists probably may think that the refusal of China to lend active aid will afford that excuse for the occupation of territory which they imagine will be useful in the coming struggle, and which would otherwise be wanting. The skilful use of such a pretext was afforded in the case of the late war with Turkey, when Great Britain was really paralysed for months by the carefully concocted stories of Bulgarian atrocities. On the other hand, the Chinese are scarcely likely to believe in the assurances of Russia to help them in the case of any serious difficulties with European Powers. No promises could be stronger or more assuring than those liberally bestowed on the late Amîr Shere Ali;—their value was not long in being discovered. The Monarch whose envoys had been received with such honour at Tashkent, and who had been so solemnly assured by the authorised agents of the Russian Government sent for the purpose to his own Court, that he would receive active assistance from Russia in the event of a quarrel with England, was a few weeks after a fugitive on Russian soil, where sympathetic consideration was the sole relief he was informed he was to get in return from the loss of his Kingdom. Little wonder, that seeing the result of being made a cat's paw to test the temper of the British Government, he should have preferred death to exile amongst strangers who had twice broken their pledged word with regard to this very territory of Afghanistan.

Now we have before pointed out how very dangerous for the Chinese was this game of diplomacy. Doubtless they have, when brought into contact with a succession of British Ministers, been able more than once to ply it with advantage. Diplomacy has, however, seldom been the *forte* of British Statesmen, and those more particularly concerned in advancing British interests in the Far East have been conspicuously ignorant of it. Russia has, on the other hand, been for the last century as conspicuous for the diplomatic arts of her representations, as has Great Britain for their absence; and the field in which she has most exercised them has been that East which England has too often given over to blunderers and pretenders in the art. China, therefore, is in a very different position in trying conclusions with Russian than with English Statesmen, and as she has by this time discovered to her loss that she has been tempted by vague promises into an exhausting war, the only result of which is the still further complication of her external affairs, she is by this time beginning to appreciate the difficulties of the position in which she has placed herself. We uttered a caution the other day with regard to the crack-brained idea of an alliance offensive and defensive between Great Britain and China, and probably on second thoughts its authors began to question in their own minds its practicability, or advisability, if practicable. Still it was evident that such a move

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would not be acceptable at St. Petersburg, and, as an antidote, a similar proposition has evidently been offered to Chunghow. It is of course easy to foresee how light engagements of such a nature would sit on Russia, whose relations with China are of a far less complicated nature than our own, and to understand how readily, in the event of their being pressed, they would be got rid of. This, however, is not the real danger for China. It is unlikely that in any possible quarrel with a European power she will be so far in the right as to engage the sympathies of any of the other Powers. Her engagements with Russia may on the other hand lead her into positions, to follow up which or to ignore them would be equally injurious to her own interests. It is so contrary to Russian policy ever to cede willingly what has been acquired, however dishonourable may have been the acquisition, that China may feel sure that if the former Power yield Ili without a struggle, it will only be that she has good reason to believe that the *quid pro quo* is of far greater value than the acquisition she has lost.

Summary of News.

The English mail of the 14th March arrived on Saturday, the 26th instant, by the P. & O. steamer *Gwalior*.

The American mail of the 22nd March arrived on Thursday, the 24th instant, by the M.B. steamer *Genkai Maru*.

A mail leaves to-morrow for Europe, by the P. & O. steamer *Nizam*.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

(Via Suez.)

Supplied to the "N.-C. Daily News."

Capetown, 1st April.

The relieving force for Ekowe has started. On 30th March Colonel Pearson signalled that he saw the vanguard. He had previously signalled on the 27th that 200 of the garrison were disabled, and that only 500 men were effective.

20,000 Zulus attacked Colonel Wood's camp near Luneburg, but were repulsed after four hours' fighting. The British loss was seven officers and seventy men.

A despatch from Capetown, of 8th April, brings intelligence that Lord Chelmsford's camp at Ghingolova was repeatedly attacked by the Zulus, numbering some 11,000. The assault began at daybreak, but the enemy were repulsed with heavy loss.

Lord Chelmsford relieved Ekowe on the night of the 4th April. The total British loss was 220.

Ekowe has been evacuated and Colonel Pearson is returning to Tugela.

London, 23rd April.

The Oriental Bank intend to close their Foochow Branch and reduce their business at Hongkong and Shanghai.

27th April.

The news of 12th April as to the surrender of Kuldja by the Russians is entirely unconfirmed. The negotiations have been broken off in consequence of Russia refusing to surrender the place.

The British Government has re-called Mr. Rivers Wilson from Egypt, and both the British and French Governments have sent identical notes to the Khedive, demanding the appointment of one French and one English Minister, with the threat of the employment of stringent measures in the event of non-compliance.

The minutes of the Municipal Council meeting held on the 16th instant are given on another page.—It is pleasant to see that the Judge of the Mixed Court, Chên, has acted promptly in response to a despatch he had received from Liu, Taotai of the Su-sung-tai district, respecting certain dishonest practices of native money shops in the Settlements, and has asked the Municipal Council to permit the posting in the Settlements of a proclamation on the subject. The Council granted the required permission.—A more important matter follows, in the shape of a report from the Superintendent of Police, to the effect that not possessing the power to examine the books kept at the pawnshops in the city and suburbs outside the foreign Settlements, the Police are frequently unable to trace and recover articles stolen from the Settlements, which thereby tends to encourage thieving. No doubt of it, especially by the house and outdoor servants of foreigners, as well as by wandering thieves. The question is why the permission of the native authorities to examine the books in question has not been sought before? A good many years have rolled by since the necessity existed, and the Police have been in existence all the time. "Better late than never," however, is a good motto—though "Better early than late" would be preferable. The Council, through their Chairman, have addressed a letter to the Senior Consul on the subject.—Certainly, some people have a knack of looking after the main chance in peculiar fashion. Mr. Poitevin, of "Sweetmeat Castle," applied to the Council for permission to erect a pavilion in the Public Garden for the sale of ices, cakes, and non-intoxicating liquors! Luckily, the Ratepayers having decided that no building of any kind can be erected in the Garden, the application could not be granted, even if the Council had been willing to sanction such an intrusion on its privacy, which we do not believe they were.—The last entry in the minutes is by no means the least important; it is that two extra policemen shall be stationed on the Bubbling Well road, one at the Skew Bridge and the other at the "double bend," so as to effect some control over native carriages and to compel the drivers to go slowly and carefully. The Council are to be commended for this step, for the great increase in native pleasure carriage traffic, along the Bubbling Well road especially, has lately become a great nuisance, particularly to ladies, and it is time all possible check should be put upon its further increase.

It is satisfactory to see that the resolution passed at the last Ratepayers' meeting, requesting all sheds and material to be removed from the foreshore of the Bund, is being carried into effect. The sheds have already disappeared, and as time goes on it may be expected that other unsightly objects will be removed—and we might suggest a free application of disinfectants.

It is gratifying to know that residents will not be deprived of the time-honoured and excellent services of the amateur members of the late Wind Instrument Society, at the Wednesday evening Garden Concerts. At a meeting held yesterday, it was resolved that they would give their assistance at those concerts, whereby the orchestra will be raised to about twenty-five instruments, and a much more varied programme than heretofore will be possible.

The final dividends of Tls. 38 per share, and 1⅔% on contributory premia for the term 1875-1877, will be paid to Shareholders in the North-China Insurance Company on and after the 28th instant.

A meeting of members of the Shanghai Tugboat Association was held on Thursday, at Messrs. Morris & Co.'s offices. A dividend of Tls. 4 per share, making a total of Tls. 16 per share for the year, was declared, a result regarded as satisfactory. Messrs. R. W. Little, C. P. Blethen, and G. Murray, the retiring Directors, were reelected.

On Friday, was held the annual general meeting of the Yang-tsze Insurance Association Mr. F. B. Forbes presiding. The Association is in a flourishing condition, the Underwriting Account showing the satisfactory result that the net premia, less reinsurances, amounted to Tls. 327,622.07; while the claims and losses paid were only Tls. 66,425.13. After making due allowance for pending claims, Tls. 107,000 remain for distribution among policy holders, equal to 33% on contributory premia. In accordance with Section 43 of the Articles of Agreement, the Directors have appropriated Taels 21,000 as extra dividend to Shareholders, at the rate of 5% on the capital, payable on the 28th instant. The balance remaining at the credit of Special Reserve Fund is Tls. 206,369.88. The following were elected Directors:—Mr. F. B. Forbes, chairman; Messrs. W. Boyd, C. Lucas, W. Meyerink, and S. D. Webb.—In accordance with the Articles of Agreement, the Directors of the Yangtsze Insurance Association have declared a dividend to policy-holders for the fifteen months ending 31st December last, of 33% on the net premia contributed, payable at Messrs. Russell and Co.'s offices on and after the 15th prox.

The Governor-General at Nanking, Shên Pao-chên, on his way to Peking to have audience of the Emperor, will shortly pass through Shanghai. As it is to the action of this high functionary that the much needed extension of our roads in the vicinity of the Settlement has never been carried out, it would be well for the Municipal Council to take advantage of the presence of the Governor-General in our midst to press on His Excellency a reconsideration of his attitude in respect to this much needed improvement.

His Excellency Kuo, ex-Minister to England and France, with Madame Kuo and suite, took their departure at noon on Tuesday, for Hankow, in the C.M.S.N. Co.'s steamer *Kiangkwan, en route* to Honan, his native province, before going to Peking. Several foreign officials paid a parting visit to His Excellency during the forenoon, and farewell calls were also made by H.E. the Taotai; Mr. Yeh, the Rice Commissioner;

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Mr. Chü Yü-chee, the Manager of the C.M.S.N. Co.; Mr. Chên, the Mixed Court Magistrate; and some thirty Wei-yuens.

Moh, the District Magistrate, has again had the prisoners arrested for complicity in the Maloo murder before him, and has liberated the two shop-keepers, the men with whom Moh-lee and Koo Ching-chee lodged, on substantial security. Moh-lee and Koo Ching-chee have mutually incriminated each other, and particularly as to the ownership of the sword with which the murder is supposed to have been committed.

It seems the native authorities in the city took active steps to trace the armed thieves who committed the robbery in the Canton Road on the night of the 16th inst. Moh, the District Magistrate, despatched runners in pursuit of the thieves, and they followed them to Soochow, where they arrested two men on suspicion of being implicated in the robbery. These two men arrived in Shanghai Thursday morning, and in the forenoon were taken before the Mixed Court Magistrate. The boatman failed to recognise them as members of the gang, and the men themselves denied all knowledge of the robbery, pleading that if an opportunity were given them, they could prove they were honest coolies in Soochow. Their appearance was very different to that of the other prisoners in custody on the charge, who are all Shantung men, while they are natives of Hangchow. Chên, the Magistrate, ordered them to be taken into the city, to be disposed of by the District Magistrate. It is believed, from a statement made by the prisoner captured at Wong-doo, that the thieves are the same gang who perpetrated the robbery some time ago at a Mandarin's residence at Ming-hong, and it was arranged that if they were dispersed in this attempt they were to meet again on a certain bridge in Soochow to arrange a robbery in another district. We hear that a Chinese official, at the Customs' barrier, beyond Jessfield, attempted to appropriate four of the balls of stolen opium by concealing them in a heap of coal and firewood, where they were found by the foreign Police, after he had told them he had given up all he took from the boat.

The opening cruise of the Shanghai Sailing Club took place on Saturday last, the yachts *Nimrod*, *Arrow*, *Rambler*, *Fearless*, and *Fairy* getting underweigh in the neighbourhood of the Public Garden about 2 p.m. The flood tide had just commenced, and with a light S.E. breeze the yachts beat down to the U.S. gun-vessel *Palos*, which is at anchor off the U.S. Consulate, and rounding her tacked up the river until they reached Tung-ka-doo, from whence they made one long board nearly up to the Pagoda, and beat up a little further than the Pagoda creek. Here the Captain of the Club gave the signal that cruising under orders was to cease for a time, and some of the yachts lay-to and others cruised in the neighbourhood until the squadron was again assembled and the yachts returned to the Settlement, which was reached shortly after 5 p.m.—It must be encouraging to the promoters of the reorganization of the Shanghai Yacht Club (which, as we have before said, is going on in good hands) to find the interest in aquatic sports reviving to such an extent.

The French corvette *Champlain* has arrived in port, from the South.

The U.S. screw gunvessel *Palos* arrived here on Friday, from Tientsin.

H.M. gunvessel *Growler* left Tientsin, with the *Sin Nanzing*, on the 25th instant, bound for Shanghai.

On her late trip North, and when, on Saturday, the 19th instant, she was about 40 miles North of Shaweishan Island, the C.C.S.N. Co.'s steamer *Sin Nanzing* fell in with and rescued from the sea thirteen Chinese, the survivors of the crew of a junk, with eighteen hands, their vessel having foundered in a S.E. gale on the previous Thursday. On sighting the unfortunate men, Captain Drage at once gave orders for their rescue, which were willingly responded to by his officers and crew. It was, however, a work of some difficulty, owing to the exhausted state the poor fellows were in after having been floating about for forty hours on the sail and mast of the junk, and there being a considerable swell left from the gale. They were, however, got on board the *Sin Nanzing*, and Captain Drage directed that they should be rubbed with brandy in order to restore circulation and then wrapped in warm blankets This kind and considerate treatment resulted in the recovery of all the rescued men, and on their arrival at Chefoo, C. T. Gardner, Esq., H.M. Consul, asked the Chinese authorities to send them back to their native place. The junk had on board 1,500 piculs of tribute rice, and was bound from Shanghai to Tientsin.

Messrs. Wheelock and Co. on Thursday submitted the British barque *Nourmahal* to sale by public auction, and after a keen competition she was knocked down for Tls. 6,900.

Messrs. Russell and Co. received a telegram on Wednesday morning from San Francisco, containing the gratifying information that the P.M. steamer *Alaska* is safe at Honolulu, but giving no particulars as to the accident which obliged her to take refuge there. Mr. P. K. Dumaresq, the agent of the P.M.S. Co., at Shanghai, has also received a similar telegram, which further stated that the *Alaska* may be expected to arrive in Yokohama about the 7th May.

We are informed that the name of the vessel which left port flying the Good Templar flag at the main, was the *Quickstep*, an American schooner, commanded by Captain Fake, and which sailed on the 7th instant for Foochow. The *Pacific Slope* some time before also left Shanghai under the same colours at the main.—In connection with this subject, it may be mentioned that the two Good Templar Lodges in Shanghai now number about 250 members, about one-third of whom are residents in the Settlements, the remainder being in vessels on the coast and frequent visitors. Besides the Good Templars there are others both ashore and afloat in coasting vessels, who are total abstainers, but do not belong to the Order.—In Royal Naval vessels on the station there are also about 100 members of the Temperance League; and with regard to the position of Good Templary in Hongkong and Japan, it is noticeable that in the above Colony there are three Lodges, and one in the Land of the Rising Sun. Lodges have also been established, and are working, on board H.M. ships *Juno* and *Growler*, both having been instituted in China.—The principles of total abstinence certainly appear to be making headway in the Far East.

We have received the first number of the Shanghai new weekly paper, *The Temperance Union, a Family Newspaper*. It is a small sheet of eight pages, well printed, and announced to be published at the exceedingly low price of $1 per annum. In his "Introduction," the Editor says:—

"We are well aware of the difficulties which will attend our undertaking, but we have an earnest hope that energy and a single minded desire to do right will not be allowed to be absolutely powerless in aiding the cause which all have at heart—the cause of moral, intellectual, and above all of spiritual advancement in Shanghai. The newspapers which already exist are devoted, as it is natural that they should be, to secular topics. They are concerned with the political and mercantile questions which are ever recurring and which have an absorbing interest for the residents in a commercial centre like Shanghai. We hope however that we may have a sphere which has not yet been occupied, open to us, and that we may do good in our day and generation without interfering with the work which our neighbours are engaged in. Everything depends on the point of view from which things are contemplated and as our standing point will be different from that occupied by other journals we shall not, it is to be hoped, clash with them."

We wish to direct the attention of officers of the Navy and Merchant services, to the Shanghai Temperance Hall. Visit the place. Attend its fortnightly entertainments. See what comfortable quarters and rational amusements are provided for sailors. If you wish your men to avoid disgrace while on shore advise them to visit the Temperance Hall, where they will always find a welcome, and nothing to induce them to break their leave, get drunk, arrested, fined, and disgraced. "Shadwell Room" has good beds provided by the kindness of Admiral Shadwell, who always manifested an interest in the Hall. His example is worthy of imitation.—*The Temperance Union.*

The wreck of the hulk *Aden* was successfully blown up with torpedoes, on the 22nd instant, under the superintendence of the TAKU Harbour-master.

On another page we give the finding of the Naval Court, held at CHEFOO, for the purpose of enquiring into the circumstances attending the wreck of the *Benclutha*. The master, Mr. James Mirrilees, was acquitted of all blame, and was commended for saving the lives of his crew and also for his seamanlike conduct on a very trying occasion.

Our correspondent at WENCHOW has sent us an interesting letter on the progress of trade at that newly opened port. Would that we could so characterize the communications of correspondents at other newly opened ports—Wuhu for example. The letter alluded to is given on another page.

The *Shanghai Mercury* states that Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co. have again been appointed agents of the TAKASIMA coal mine.

Manila papers state that a slight shock of earthquake was felt at VIGAN (Ilocos Sur) at 9.30 p.m. of the 28th March, and another of more intensity at 9.46 p.m. of the following day, which caused some alarm to the inhabitants.

For a variety of other news from the OUTPORTS, JAPAN, &c., see other pages.

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Editorial Selections.

THE WOO-SHIH-SHAN RIOTS.

The case of the Wu-shih-shan riots has resolved itself into two issues—one the punishment of those engaged in the riot of last August, the other the legal title to the property held. It seems that with regard to the latter, the Missionaries have been more than once offered eligible sites where their title would be indefeasible, but have preferred to contest the possession of temple lands held under a lease at best questionable—a position they have, however, been permitted to hold unquestioned, according to the *Foochow Herald*, for twenty-five years. Properly speaking, according to Chinese ideas, the land belonging to temples is inalienable, and, though by universal consent it is occasionally transferred, it seems to be the case that the objection of a single individual interested will void the sale. Leases from time to time may be granted, but it is considered illegal to grant them in perpetuity, and hence, though the lease of the ground at the Wu-shih-shan was undoubtedly intended by both parties to it to be perpetual, the question of the rights of the representatives of the temple to alienate the property are liable to be called in question. Even the most ultra advocates on the Chinese side have not attempted to defend the riots of the 30th August, nor the shuffling manner in which the punishment of the ringleaders has been from day to day postponed. With this question the title to the property has nothing to do, and we are therefore surprised that the two should be taken into consideration together. Whether the Missionaries had or had not a good title to the property on the Wu-shih-shan was not a question to be settled by mob law. So far as the rioters were concerned, the question of title was not in point. They wished to get rid of the Missionaries, who had certainly entered into their tenancy by fair means, and with this end in view raised a riot and destroyed a quantity of property. It is curious how, in all our dealings with the Chinese Government, the latter is always permitted to take advantage of side issues.

As the Foochow case is being conducted at present, the crime of the riot and the destruction of the Mission property is attempted to be justified by the alleged bad title of the Missionaries. Even if the point of title had been previously raised, it would seem preposterous to make it an excuse for the events of the 30th August. The point of title had, however, not been previously thought of, and was only introduced after the event to draw off attention from the main issues. This it is that raises the chief difficulty in the affair. Should it be held that the title to the property is insufficient, it may be assumed that it will be industriously disseminated amongst the Chinese that the Missionaries were expelled in deference to the rioters of August last, and the Wu-shih-shan riot will almost certainly be made the forerunner of others, possibly more serious. Judging from the impunity which has been extended to the perpetrators of all similar outrages from the time of the Tientsin massacre onwards, it is too much to hope than any punishment will be inflicted on the instigators of this riot, so that a failure to prove a legal title may be accepted as a justification for further outrages.

In connection with this unnecessarily wearisome affair, it may not be amiss to quote the written view of a resident at Foochow, in the columns of the *Foochow Herald*:—"No argument can be employed in favor of missionary submission to *fêng-shui-ite* mob law that would not apply with equal force to every British subject in the port interested, however remotely, in land or house property. This Wu-shih-shan case is, in fact, the crucial test of the right of residence secured by treat .o all British subjects—missionary .d mercantile alike. It should therefore be determined in a fair and equitable manner. The *fêng-shui-ites* have elected to abide by the decision of an English tribunal; the defendants are equally willing to submit to a legal decision. If, however, a compromise is desired, let that compromise be of a nature calculated to strengthen rather than to weaken the *prestige* of foreigners." Fortunately there was no personal injury inflicted in the riots, and this should render the matter more easy of adjustment.

We imagine from what we have heard that a satisfactory compromise would be acceptable in high Chinese quarters, and the present seems to be a favourable opportunity for gaining official sanction to the work of the Church Missionary Society.

THE STRENGTH OF CHINA.

It is often a theme for wonder how the Empire of China, with an administration so full of abuses, holds together as it does. Though rebellions have ever and anon seemed to threaten its existence, and though it has appeared like a tottering wall and a broken hedge, it holds its place. It loses territory and regains it. It sends its surplus population to other lands, and it holds up against famines and trials of strength that are found too severe for almost every other nation. The oldest political adage speaks of long minorities as peculiarly dangerous to kingdoms, but these dynastic inefficiencies do not seem to touch the vital strength that is inherent in this huge, unwieldly, but strangely enduring Empire. This power of "last" is owing largely to the character of the people. They have a capacity for holding on and holding out. The most conservative of realms is the longest if not the best conserved. It is perhaps worth while to consider why this is the case. It results mainly from the national character; but if we look carefully at China and compare it with other Empires, we shall see that the Middle Kingdom is exempt from many of the perils which have wrecked great States. The Chinese have avoided the dangerous institution of slavery. This is a point worth noticing, for slavery produces two results which are injurious to national well-being. If there is a large influx of slave labour, a haughty contempt for menial work is produced, and this spreads all over the country and becomes the prominent idea of the upper and middle classes, so that the rank and file of the citizens become idle, self-indulgent, and useless. The upper class in China may be greedy and dishonest, but they are not idle. The Romans bought slaves to do their work, taught them the elegant and civilizing arts which beautify life, and as these arts became the trade of the despised class, they gave up learning them themselves and thereby lost the refining influences which such arts diffuse. Now, such literary and artistic culture as the Chinese have is the possession of the upper class, and is everywhere respected. There is a wide difference between a man who reads little but has a respect for reading, and a man who regards book learning as a thing to teach his slave but not an occupation sufficiently dignified for himself. The Chinese have never been large slave holders, and their labouring classes are not embruted by bonds or stigmatized by caste. In this there is a distinct point of superiority over the Roman Empire, and freedom from a corroding disease is so far health.

Another reason why China is conserved is the absence of a moneyed aristocracy who enrich themselves without benefit to the world. Officials in China amass great wealth, but they are compelled to spend it. They may squeeze or extort money from those below them, but if they are known to hoard they are very soon mulcted by the officials above them. China has no Pomponius Atticus or Crassus. The wealth of the country is not in few hands as it is in too many bloated States. Another evil sign in Rome was the aversion to wedlock. The wide-spread dislike to the burdens of married life which prevailed amongst the upper and middle classes was a morbid sentiment which Augustus strove to check by legal pressure, and civil disabilities were enacted against those who would not marry. China is freer from this cause of weakness even than England.

China is strong, then, in the absence or numerical insignificance of her servile class, in the number and industry of her peasant proprietors, and in the system of early marriages and the encouragement offered to wedlock. Two of these conditions are likely to be permanent. Slavery can never exist

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to any extent in China, and all the instincts and habits of the people are in favour of their continuing to marry and be given in marriage. But of course the small farms may at some later period give place to the great holdings of the rich—the "latifundia quæ perdidere Italiam,"—the vast domains which were the bane of Italy. Before China there are of course rocks ahead, though she has less to dread than many more advanced countries. One subject for consideration forces itself upon us, and that is the gradual diminution of population; but China, even if the number of her inhabitants has been hitherto largely exaggerated, can afford to be curtailed better than any other nation in the world.

ISANDULA AND ITS LESSONS.

The British nation is not apt at learning from past mistakes. It has a strange habit of neglecting the warnings of experienced and tried men and trusting to the general good luck which ultimately extricates its soldiers or its ships from the predicament into which they have been rashly thrust. This is the obvious reflection which forces itself upon the reader when he peruses the account of the battle of Isandula. The dispassionate outside observer might almost have predicted that we should have a defeat at the outset of the South African campaign—a stumble on the threshold, so to speak; and that *after* this disaster, but not *before it*, the nation would assume their serious attitude and make preparations in some sort commensurate with the gravity of the task to be performed. The quaint but sagacious adviser who tells us in an inimitable caricature not to despise our enemy, really gives his moral extra point by the copybook character of the phrase. One of the reasons for the irresolution which characterizes England at the beginning of a contest of this kind, is the difficulty which the nation has in making up its mind on what may be called the aspect of the question. The Afghans are the lawful owners of Afghanistan, the Zulus are the lawful owners of Zululand, our philosophical essayists truly observe, and then they ask what right have we to take their territory? It is robbery, it is rapine, it is a monstrous violation of the eighth commandment. Why should we decorate our soldiers with crosses and medals and Orders of the Bath for doing on a large scale what Bill Sikes gets six months' imprisonment for doing on a small one? How can we have the face to blame a noble fellow like Cetewayo, who fights as bravely as our own Saxon Harold for the precious acres of his Fatherland, and who instead of being called a bloodthirsty savage should be honoured with Wallace and Bruce, with Tell and Winkelried? These are the old stock arguments which are always reappearing, and which have the unhappy effect of paralysing our energies at the entrance of every little war into which we find ourselves launched. Of course there is a large amount of truth in them, but as we know from the beginning that, when it comes to the point, we shall fling them to the winds, there is no use in going through the weary round of pleas, which, whether they be good or whether they be bad, will never be allowed to influence our conduct one iota. When we have annexed territory we shall certainly keep it, and if keeping it involves war, to war we shall go. It is as idle for a nation to go through the weary round of peace arguments, when committed to a career of conquest, as for a judge to spend the interval between the sentence and execution of a prisoner in writing a treatise on the impropriety of capital punishment. Capital punishment may be wrong, and the treatise composed by our imaginary judge may ultimately tend to the abolition of the practice, but it will not help the man whom he has sentenced to be hanged by the neck until he is dead. In effect, a powerful, populous, and stirring nation, when in contact with savages, has no alternative between augmentation of territory and retirement from the front rank. It is a question whether the aforesaid nation should or should not have placed itself in such a position with regard to the savage tribes, but having once held it, it is idle to think of retreat or relinquishment of acquisitions. This being so, it is peculiarly irritating to be hampered at the outset of a campaign by vain talk which has no practical effect in promoting peace or stopping aggression, but which inevitably produces negligent and inefficient preparations, an inadequate expeditionary attempt, and ends in a repulse like that which has lately occurred at Isandula.

The second lesson which we gather from the African defeat is more encouraging. It is impossible to estimate the effect of this exhibition of daring and desperate valour. There are defeats which carry within them the seeds of future victories, and this is one of those defeats. After relating how the 24th captured the hill which was the key of the position, the *Times* correspondent adds, "Cheers were taken up all along the line, and had the Zulu nation only heard them and known, as we did, that they were the cheers of a handful of English troops who had lost full half their number, besides everything they possessed, and who believed themselves to be advancing against an enemy, in a very strong position and ten times numerically stronger than themselves, and in the dark, I fancy they would have understood that they had very considerably undervalued our 'foot men,' as they contemptuously call them." When this is known, as it is by this time, to Cetewayo and his warriors, they will also learn to respect the troops over whom they have obtained this early success, and it is to be hoped will not continue much longer a contest which can only have one end.

Outports.

TIENTSIN.

The *Telegraphic Journal* hears that, through the enterprise and wise policy of the Viceroy, His Excellency Li Hung-chang, telegraph stores have been purchased, and that under the direction of Mr. J. A. Betts (the director of the Imperial Torpedo College, Tientsin), the *first* telegraph line for the transmission of *public messages* will be erected, and will probably be in working order within three or four months from this date. This will be a line of some 40 miles in length, and will no doubt be very rapidly extended. Thus we may expect to find that within the next decade the use of electricity in China will be as much a fact as in Europe or America.

Our own correspondent, writing on the 14th instant, stated that "the telegraph wires between Tientsin and Taku were being put up—the poles having been set last fall."

The following extract from a letter modestly descriptive of the writer's earnest and arduous work in the Mission field, will doubtless be read with considerable interest at this time:—

"My Dear ———,—I reached home last Saturday evening, after an absence of eighty days of hard Mission work in the field, where a year ago I was distributing relief among the people. During the ten weeks on the ground, I travelled over 500 miles on donkeyback, going to and returning from an appointment almost every day, and preaching about seventy times, not to speak of conversations, 'talks,' &c. I baptized eighty-six persons, and left about the same number of hopeful inquirers. In all the localities where Missionaries from Tientsin gave relief, there is great readiness, and on the part of many a strong desire, to hear the doctrine which inculcates such a large and disinterested charity to entire strangers, as they were the recipients of last year. And so a 'great door and effectual is opened' for preaching. In the section where I was, very few 'kitchen gods' were sold at the New-Year; the picture makers say 'nobody wanted them.'

"The simple, earnest faith of some of these young converts is most cheering to see; I should like to have scoffers at a pure, simple, earnest, old-fashioned piety, meet some of these unlettered men and women, strong in the joy of their new-formed faith, and knowing the happiness of freedom from bondage to idolatry and superstition—freemen in Jesus Christ."

31st March.

We have been having some very peculiar weather of late, not a little of which has been unseasonable as well. After a few days of very pleasant and quite warm weather, we had a sharp change accompanied by snow on the 8th, since which time the weather has been cold, windy and cloudy most of the time. So cold was it that ice from ¼ to ½ inch thick froze around the edges of the ponds on several nights; and it is said that most of the seeds already planted by the Chinese gardeners are destroyed by the frost. The trees are pushing forward, however, very rapidly towards the leaf.

The telegraph wires between this and Taku are now being put up. The poles were set last fall.

Owing to an ice-jam in the Yellow River, a large tract of country below Chinan Fu was flooded in the winter. An official from Peking, charged with the duty of repairing the break caused by this jam, gave orders to headmen of villages near by to have the break repaired within a given time, otherwise punishments would be inflicted. No means for doing the work were furnished. So it would seem that the funds appropriated for such "public

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works" goes into the pockets of somebody besides those who do the work.

The last day or two our bund has been the scene of some disgraceful conduct on the part of some drunken Russian sailors. In one case, when the police were trying to get the drunken fellows on board their vessel, they were joined by some of their comrades who appeared to be sober, or at least less under the influence of liquor than the offenders, and who at once began to administer some heavy blows to the police. These were returned with good effect. Such scenes are disgraceful, and we hope that both the Civil and the Naval representatives of Russia will, for the sake of their own and the nation's good name, deal with such offenders in a way to prevent the recurrence of like scenes in the future. For when these fellows are on a rampage, it is unsafe for ladies, unattended, to be on the streets.

14th April.

CHINKIANG.

The steamer *Kiangkwan*, Captain Morse, has met with a serious accident, having collided with and sunk an iron steamer belonging to the Futai of Nanking. The collision occurred of Tantoo, about seven miles below Chinkiang, at 3.30 this a.m. Four persons were drowned, among them being a Wei-yuen in charge of despatches for Soochow. The *Kiangkwan* was also in great danger, having two large holes in her bows which caused her to take about four or five feet of water in her forehold. From what can be gathered through the Chinese passengers and others on board, the *Kiangkwan* is entirely blameless. The Futai's steamer behaved in a most erratic manner, trying (as is usual) to cross the bows of the *Kiangkwan*, after first shewing quite a contrary course. The *Kiangkwan* had her engines stopped and reversed, but had not lost her way, being deeply laden, when the collision took place. Her repairs will be temporarily patched up here, and she will probably leave this place late to-night or to-morrow morning on her upward voyage.

Kwo Sung-tao and family are passengers on board.

The Taotai has visited the steamer for purposes of investigation among the natives, but some kind of official enquiry will be made on her return to Shanghai.

The combination of the Swatow Guild against foreigners getting their usual shipments of opium is being successfully maintained, and it would be interesting to know if this open-handed defiance of our Treaty rights meets with the approval or disapproval of those appointed to watch the interests of foreigners in this country.

23rd April.

NINGPO.

A correspondent kindly writes to say that the French corvette *Kerguelen* arrived at Ningpo on Saturday last, from Foochow.

WENCHOW.

Since last writing, the port has made considerable progress in the matter of trade.

The *Yung-ning*, running as she has with the support of the most influential natives, and trip after trip with improved and improving results, seems now to have almost attained to that point where if more offered it would of necessity become merely a tantalising superfluity. As has been often surmised, the impetus given by regular and speedy means of shipment has brought to the front export of all kinds.

The prospects for tea being shipped from this place for the Shanghai market would seem to be good, if we may believe the somewhat confident statement that a goodly quantity has already been promised to the steamers.

But apart from this, a batch of Ningpo men, connected with a new establishment at that place for the preparation of black tea, have arrived, and proceeded to the districts with a view of purchasing unfired leaf for treatment at Ningpo.

It so came about that one of the very few individuals who attempted last year to sell his tea here, but through some defect in the packing was not able to obtain the price he wanted from the only foreign buyer in Wenchow, shipped his produce to Shanghai on his own account, at which place he happened to effect a very remunerative sale. This has, of course, stimulated not only him, but his neighbours, and, if rumour speaks truly, will have some influence on the tea export this season.

It will be recollected how impossible it has seemed in the past to overcome the opposition of Ningpo and obtain a market for opium imported direct. Beginning with one chest by the *Yung-ning's* first trip, the importation has steadily increased, until last voyage seven were brought down. This demand is due in some measure to the favouring efforts of the *lekin* officials; and it is an undoubted fact that propositions have been made to them by certain native merchants here, which, if accepted, will result in the latter *guaranteeing to pass at least two chests of opium per diem.*

It is not improbable that some such *arrangement may be come to; but be this* as it may, the fact of such an offer being made (and it by no means implies any impraticable concession,) speaks volumes for the capabilities of the place.

Of course this large consumption can only be effected by taking over those districts at present supplied through Ningpo, but which are infinitely more easy of access from this.

Speaking broadly, the general trade returns for the past quarter will be found to show an increase of about four times the extent of those for the corresponding one last year; and there can be no doubt but that should things go on as they are at present, the next will be still more satisfactory.

One foreign merchant has opened a house here, but with this exception, natives are at present reaping all the benefits of the improved state of affairs.

We hear, strange to say from Chinese sources, that in the event of Indian tea competing strongly with Chinese leaf, Wenchow will come prominently forward as a market, its position and other advantages permitting of the necessary reduction in price being made. This is accounted for by the very marked difference in cost of transport as compared with Foochow, and the possibility when opening a new market of putting an end to certain "customs and squeezes" which are said to have attained the force of law in that port.

I give the last reason as it comes to me, and leave it to those of your readers better qualified to judge what is meant; merely adding that, as far as I can learn, official malfeasance is not particularly alluded to.

Apropos of officials, I would remind you that although Chinese are at present undoubtedly getting the full benefit of progressing trade here, as well as enjoying privileges which have been granted entirely in the hope of attracting foreigners and originally for them alone, still nothing has been done to invalidate those precautions which at the very outset were taken to prevent the creation of similar combinations and monopolies to those which have acted so disastrously on foreign merchants in Ningpo.

Workmen are busy converting a portion of one of the temples on Conquest Island into a temporary Consulate, which, however, I assume, will have to do duty until the port has attained sufficient importance to justify, first, the selection of a permanent site for the Settlement, and, secondly, the erection of one of those substantial mansions in which we are wont to find H.M.'s representatives housed.

I am still unable to report any man-of-war's arrival; but in case there should be uneasiness on our account, I may mention that the people continue to exhibit the same friendly and neighbourly disposition; and as the ducks have fled, I fear the only inducement we can offer our nautical friends is the very hearty welcome they are sure to receive, whenever the exigencies of the service permit of their looking in.

19th April.

FOOCHOW.

The *Herald* hears from a reliable source that the *Gleneagles* will be the first of the "Glen" line to load for London at Foochow in the approaching tea season.—H.M.'s gunboat *Sheldrake* returned from Hongkong on the 14th inst.

Further interferences with mission property has, says the *Herald*, occurred at Yenping. This time the aggrieved parties are Americans, and such vigorous remonstrances have been addressed to the local authorities, that there is every prospect of peace being restored in the district. As regards the late outrages on the English Church Mission at Yik-kau, there is not, we hear, the slightest probability of any redress being obtained. The gentry are defiant, and the authorities are reported to be apathetic, if not directly sympathetic with the rowdy literati.

The Foochow Horticultural Society's Annual Exhibition took place on the 16th inst., at the Gymnase, and was a highly successful display. The flowers were perhaps not so brilliant in the mass of bloom as last year's exhibition, but the specimens were undoubtedly superior. Amongst the best exhibits were Roses, Pansies and Peonies; the Pansies were especially good,—equal, it was thought, to the finest of European growth. Geraniums, Pelargoniums, Cinerarias, and Azaleas were an indifferent show, having apparently suffered from the recent wet and changeable weather. A word of praise must be granted to the cut flowers, which were excellently and tastefully arranged. It was regrettable that the requisite number of ladies did not compete for the prizes awarded to table decorations, but the fair recipients of trophies were fully deserving of the recognition accorded to their graceful work. For Vegetables there was a larger show and keener competition than last year,—many exhibits being so nearly equal that the judges found it a matter of considerable difficulty to award the prizes. Amongst the best specimens in this department of the show were Turnips, Cabbages, Beet-Root, and Horse Radish. Some good Parsley and Celery were also shown.

It is rumoured, says the *Herald*, that the British Government contemplate surrendering the Consular premises on Wu-shih-shan. Now, for many years the Chinese disputed the right of foreign officials to reside in the City of Foochow. The premises in question were ultimately obtained, but with the utmost difficulty, and have been held ever since in order to maintain a principle, namely, the right of residence. If then, the British Government should at this crisis abandon Wu-shih-shan, will it not be said that this step has been taken through fear of the anti-foreign clique of incendiaries?

A clever fraud was discovered some days ago at the Foochow Custom House. It came about in this wise. A native hong received from Formosa a consignment of bullion—declared to be gold bars—but on examination the metal was found to be silver washed with a thin coating of gold. Truly, the ways of the heathen are dark and mysterious.

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AMOY.

The *Gazette* says that the Amoy A.D.C. brought the theatrical season to a close on the night of the 9th instant, by a most successful performance of the celebrated burlesque "Ali Baba, or the Thirty-nine Thieves."—The same paper understands that Messrs. Denny and Cheshire, who arrived in the *Namoa* from Foochow, were to leave in the U.S.S. *Ranger* for Taiwanfoo, to enquire into the case of burning of the *Forest Belle* at Kwa Liang Bay.—The China ponies sent to the Manila races, says the *Gazette*, appear to have done nothing. They were heavily weighted and had insufficient training. *Braes o'Mar* came near winning one race, but *Lammermuir* seems to have taken complete charge of his rider. *Jambarree* succumbed to rheumatism, and did not start. It is to be regretted that the Amoy favorites did not make a better show, and it is thought that the Manila Jockey Club erred in handicapping the China ponies as they did. On the other hand there is no question that the Amoy representatives were sadly out of training, and it will be well to bear this in mind next year, should anyone be plucky enough to try their luck on the Manila turf.

HONGKONG.

Another case of piracy, says the *Daily Press*, has occurred about ninety miles to the westward of Hongkong. It appears that the *Suo Leung Yik* junk, of about 2,000 piculs, left Hongkong on the 29th ultimo at seven o'clock p.m., with general cargo and about ninety souls, crew and passengers, for a place called Sun Wai, about fifty miles westward of Macao. When within about five miles of her destination on the 1st instant, at about nine o'clock p.m., the junk was hailed by some men in a boat who said that they belonged to the Customs and wanted to examine the cargo. The junk accordingly hove to; but as the boat got alongside the junk people's suspicions were aroused and they refused to allow them to board, whereupon the men in the boat commenced to fire, which the junk people returned. The boat then went away and shortly after returned with seven more piratical boats, which surrounded the junk and fired at the people on board her. The crew of the junk defended themselves vigorously, and ultimately repelled the attack, the pirates being obliged to retire without being able to board the junk. The loss on the side of the pirates is said to be about fifteen. Each boat carried about thirty men. The master of the junk and one of the seamen, we regret to say, lost their lives in the affray.

The *China Mail* of the 15th instant, says a Proclamation by the Governor is published in that day's *Gazette* continuing for a further period of six months from 1st May next, the prohibition made on 1st November last, in consequence of certain representation made by the Governor-General of Kwangtung and Kwangsi, of the exportation from the Colony of Hongkong or the carriage coastwise within the said Colony, of all arms, ammunition, gunpowder, and naval or military stores.

His Honour the Acting Puisne Judge (Mr. J. J. Francis), the two Police Magistrates, the Superintendent of Victoria Gaol, and Dr. Eitel, have been appointed by the Governor a Commission to enquire into the whole question of public gambling in Hongkong, in connection with its detection and suppression.

The China Sugar Refinery Company manufactured during the quarter ending 10th inst., 3,786 proof gallons spirits. A return to this effect received from Mr. Henry Dickie, is published in the *Gazette*.

On the night of the 15th inst., the Garrison Theatre was filled by a large audience, to witness an amateur theatrical performance by the Royal Artillery Dramatic Club, the proceeds of which were to be devoted to the relief of the widow of a late member of the Corps. The domestic drama of "The Chimney Corner" was the piece selected for representation, and on the whole it was admirably put on the boards.

The *Mail* has seen a letter from General Grant to the U.S. Consul (Colonel Moseby), in which he states that, while it is impossible for him to say when he will reach Hongkong, his plans are briefly these:—He was to leave the Straits Settlements on the 6th or 7th for Bangkok, Siam; he spends several days there, and leaves for Saigon about the 18th. He takes the first steamer offering there for Hongkong, whether mail or no, and will advise the authorities by telegraph when he leaves Saigon. It was the General's expectation to make the trip in the U.S. naval vessel *Richmond*, but she was a month late in leaving the States, and has travelled very slowly. He has heard of her passing Aden, and hopes to see her in Hongkong when, or soon after, he arrives. If a telegram is received when he leaves Saigon it can be calculated pretty closely when he will arrive in Hongkong. Meantime it would seem that the date of his arrival would be about the 25th inst. If any preparations worthy of the occasion are to be made to welcome the General, the *Mail* says they should be set about soon. It notes that in Shanghai already a very hearty public meeting has been held at which arrangements were made for a proper reception of the illustrious soldier-statesman. Chinese and Foreigners alike are enthusiastically taking up the matter. It will be sorry if Hongkong does not come forward at this time in a way worthy of herself.

The *Daily Press* says at a meeting of the Committee of the proposed Exchange it was decided to take the lower portion of Marine House, Queen's-road, for six months, as the most suitable central position at present available for the Exchange. A sub-committee of six was elected. The opening of the Exchange is now only a question of a short time. The sub-committee elected consist of those most zealous in promoting the scheme as an experiment, and it only remains for them to get matters into working order.

The *Mail* prints the following items:—The public recognition of General Grant by the Hongkong community will take the form of a general compliance with the Governor's request to meet him at the wharf when the General arrives and give him a hearty welcome, and that a ball in his honour will be given by the citizens of Hongkong.—Mr. Consul Lincoln, of Canton, has received a letter from General Grant, in which the General accepts the Viceroy's invitation to visit the provincial capital. Preparations are being made in Canton for the General's reception and entertainment.

The medical advisers of the Hon. C. May have imperatively ordered him Home by the earliest opportunity, and he was to leave by the next English mail steamer.

With regard to the German barque *Jacobine* having been refused a clearance for Whampoa, the *Mail* believes that an application for her clearance to Chefoo has met with a similar refusal. We presume this has been done pending instructions from H.E. the Governor.

It is understood that a special session would be held on an early day probably, when the *Kate Waters* murder case and the charge of embezzlement of $11,000 by a Chinese compradore, would be tried.

It has been subject of general remark, says the *Mail*, that no answer has as yet been vouchsafed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to the resolutions passed at the great Public Meeting held at Hongkong in October last year. That public meeting, which was called upon requisition signed by the Hon. P. Ryrie and 63 others, was held on the 7th day of October last, and the resolutions were transmitted a day or two thereafter to the Colonial Secretary. It seems to us to be somewhat strange that no acknowledgment has yet been received; and although no unusual expedition need be looked for in a matter hostile to any member of the Colonial service, especially under the political pressure of the Zulu War, still some "movement of the waters" might have reached this Colony in six months' time. We are afraid if this delay has been adopted as a sort of cooling process, the attempt will be a failure. It is generally believed that the Hon. Mr. Lowcock, M.L.C., will proceed Home shortly. Perhaps he might be induced to stimulate the lethargic energies of the pigeon-holing authorities at the Colonial Office.

CANTON.

The *Daily Press* correspondent understands that a new mart has lately been opened, by the help of the Canton Authorities, in Long Pah Kon. This place is in the district of Heung Shan, between Macao and Sun Wen. Long Pak Kon is an important point on the route to Kan Chau-fu, Lien Chau-fu, and Liu Chau-fu. It was until recently notorious as a resort of pirates, but owing to the action of the Canton Authorities they have been expelled, and in consequence trade is now rapidly increasing, numerous houses and shops are rising, and the place is thriving. A military force has been stationed there to protect the honest traders and keep down piracy.

16th April.

MACAO.

A Hongkong contemporary states that H.E. the Governor of Macao, though still in a precarious state, has felt some relief since the operation performed by Dr. O'Brien. *Laryngitis Ulcerosa* seems to be the complaint His Excellency is suffering from. H.E. was not so well on the 18th inst., having passed a bad night.

The *China Mail* regrets to learn that H.E. the Governor of Macao is in a very precarious state. Dr. Gomez has left Hongkong to attend His Excellency, and a day or two afterwards, when the steamer *White Cloud* reached Macao, she was ordered to return with Baron do Cercal and the Governor's Aide-de-Camp for further medical assistance. The steamer left with Dr. O'Brien, and it is understood that the doctors, after consulting, had decided to perform an operation.

NAGASAKI.

In its Naval news, the *Rising Sun* says the French flagship *Armide* and the gunboat *Lynx* left early on the 15th inst., for Kobe and Yokohama, and the *Champlain* on the 18th, for Shanghai. H.M.S. *Charybdis* left Hongkong on the 5th for Yokohama, and arrived at Nagasaki *en route* on the 18th, when the usual salutes were exchanged. H.I.R.M.S. *Ermak* is expected to leave shortly for Shanghai, whence she will probably return before going to Vladiwostock. The *Vostock* left for Vladiwostock on the 15th inst. Men-of-war in harbour are:—H.M.S. *Charybdis* and *Lapwing*, H.I.R.M.S. *Kreysser* and *Ermak*.

A small American saloon-steamer, the *Hoyen*, arrived here on the 13th inst., from Shanghai, and it is said that her visit to Nagasaki is made with the view of changing owners. The steamer was better known in the old ante-railway days at Kobe, when she used to ply between that port and Osaka. The *Sun* believes negotiations for her sale are almost completed, and that the sum of 25,000 yen is named as her price. She left on a trial trip on the 18th instant.

HIOGO.

In an article on the progress of Kobe both commercially and "municipally," the *Hiogo News* says:—"Our annual export of tea has been year by year increasing, and last year

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reached a total weight of ten millions of pounds, valued at two millions of dollars. The export from Yokohama is half as much again, but we are gradually creeping up, year by year, slowly but surely. This season, we hope and expect, our rate of progress will be considerably accelerated; and from creeping we shall take to leaps and bounds, perhaps. Kobe has put on spurts before, but the struggles made, though praiseworthy, were necessarily—in the days we speak of—very much in the dark. In the race for pre-eminence, our exertions will henceforth be made in broad daylight; and the prize we contend for is the placing of this settlement in possession of what legitimately belongs to it—command of the export tea-trade of Japan."—The *Osaka Shinpo* caps this by saying:—"We hear there will be a considerable demand for tea amongst foreigners this year, but native dealers are not likely to be in possession of full supplies. Prices have recently advanced, but, notwithstanding, foreign merchants say they will buy all the tea there is in the country. Tea that was worth 20 *yen* per picul at the opening of the season last year would now fetch 40 *yen*. When the season opens this year, prices will of course recede, but teas will be worth at least 10 to 15 *yen* per picul more than last year's. Tea-growers are now busy making preparations for the coming season; but they show a determination not to submit to any reduction in prices."—In another paragraph, the *Shinpo* says, "As soon as the buildings being erected for the Kuwanko-ba are finished, the preparation of black tea will be begun. The instructors are to be selected from the staff of the Mitsui black tea establishment, and only residents of Osaka will be eligible as learners."

Wonders will never cease, says the *News*. Last week, we had news of the sea-serpent and a tortoise twenty-four feet long, and now they have caught a mermaid, down on the Tosa coast. It is only 14 inches in height. As it is shortly to be exhibited at the Osaka Museum, further particulars are reserved.

The ribbon-paper used by the Telegraph Department is made at the paper mill of Mr. Majima, at Naka-no-shima, Osaka. He has recently received an order from the Great Northern Telegraph Co. for a supply, and on the 8th instant a ton weight of his paper was forwarded from the telegraph office at Koraibashi to Shanghai. It is said to be about 50 *yen* per ton cheaper than that imported from Europe.

An Osaka correspondent of the *News* writes:—I have noticed recently a good many women and children engaged in picking up orange-peel, but have not been able to ascertain to what use it is put. I hope it is not made into marmalade, but I have my doubts; I think I have seen some tins of preserves, put up in imitation of the foreign article, in the *to-butsu-ya* on Shinsai-bashi-suji. Mem: Don't buy Anglo-Japanese goods when the genuine article is to be had, even though it is a trifle dearer. I have just heard of another new industry, which shows the thriftiness of the Japanese. The paper made at the paper mill here is mostly manufactured from blue rags, which of course contain a good deal of dye. That dye is indigo, a valuable article of commerce. Hitherto the water in which the rags have been boiled has been allowed to run to waste, passing into and poisoning the water-courses, but henceforth the blue fluid is to be saved, and as it necessarily holds in suspension a goodly quantity of the dye, the operation of extracting the indigo from it is likely to prove one highly profitable to the business-like native who hit on the idea. I have seen two samples of the cake indigo produced, one of them of very good quality. There must of course be a good deal of dirt even in the best samples, but the article ought to be good enough for the dyeing of cheap fabrics."

YOKOHAMA.

The *Gazette* gives a report of a grand banquet given on the 10th instant to Mr. E. J. Reed, M.P., in the Town Hall of Yokohama, by order, as it says, of the authorities, by the merchants of Yokohama. The contribution of each host was fixed at the moderate figure of twenty *yen*. In a later edition, the *Gazette* says, "The friend who furnished us with the report of the banquet given to Mr. Reed and his son at the Town Hall appears to have been mistaken as to the amount payable by the merchants who had to give the entertainment. A native contemporary states that the cost amounted to a thousand *yen*, which had to be paid by thirteen merchants only. This sum,—with the 100 gold *yen* required for the clever conjuring trick 'Conversion' exhibited by one of the principal guests, and which was so much admired—must have swollen the contributions of each of the entertainers to considerably more than the 20 *yen* mentioned by our reporter."

Much surprise will be felt that the proceedings in the Takebashi mutiny are still going on. On the 10th instant Adjutants Yamada and Hirayama were brought up before the Court-martial and sentenced to be shot. They were at once conveyed to Echiujima and put to death.

The War Office officials are not satisfied with their present quarters. A new building is to be erected for their accommodation at a cost of 150,000 *yen*.

A race between the *America's* six-oared gig, and Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s gig, also six-oared, took place on the 10th instant. The crew of the former were Chinese and the latter Japanese. The course was from the *America* round the lightship and back. Soon after starting, the Japanese assumed the lead and kept it throughout without difficulty, winning by four minutes in very creditable time.

Peking Gazettes.

ABSTRACT OF PEKING GAZETTES.

March 21st.—(1) A decree acknowledging the report of Ngên Ch'eng and T'ung Hwa, two high officers sent to investigate certain charges brought against Ting Pao-chêng, Governor of Szech'wan, and some of his subordinates by the Supervising Censor Wu Chên. The Governor-General was accused of establishing an arsenal without sufficient experience of the machinery required, of appropriating public funds to his own use, and of screening others who were guilty of a similar misdemeanour. The Commissioners find that the charges made were either unsupported by proofs or that the acts complained of were justified by circumstances, but that the cost of the arsenal was heavy and the work turned out was faulty in construction and not durable. The Governor-General is accordingly directed to abandon the undertaking in order to avoid a useless expenditure of money. Lao Wên-show, a Taotai in charge of the military expenditure department, has denied that he sent money to the Governor-General's Yamên, but in order to ascertain whether or no he has been guilty of misrepresentation, he is to be relieved of his duties and his books for some years past are to be carefully scrutinised by the Financial Commissioner and Judge. A *wei-yuan*, against whom a charge of embezzlement was brought, has been found to be innocent, but is to be withdrawn from his present duties on account of his having formed undesirable acquaintances which have given rise to the circulation of stories damaging to his official reputation. Certain other minor officials are to be deprived of office and their conduct investigated by the high authorities of the province.

(2) Wei Ch'ing 維慶 is transferred from the post of Deputy-Lieutenant General of the Bordered Yellow *Han-chün* Corps to that of Deputy Lieutenant-General of Ch'eng-tu. He is to be succeeded by Wên Chêng 文澂.

(3) A decree ordering a fresh series of charges against Li Chung-ming, *alias* Li Chung-shan, *alias* Li Ping-hsün, the Peking bookseller referred to in Decrees of 18th and 20th March, to be investigated by the Court of Censors. It is now stated by a Censor that both his house and shop encroach on Government land, and that he has appropriated a public refuge for the poor and converted it into a private house.

(4) Memorial from the Censor Hwang Yuan-shan. He hailed with pleasure the appearance of the Imperial Decree on the abolition of the purchase system, and the subsequent announcement of its cessation by the Board of Revenue. The measure is one that cannot fail to be appreciated by all members of the official class who have the slightest acquaintance with administrative economy. The evils of the purchase system were universally recognised, but no one dared to give expression to his opinion on this matter at a time when the financial condition of the Empire was in such an unsatisfactory state. It was left to Their Majesties the Empresses and Emperor to take the decided step of abandoning the system abruptly and for ever, thereby commanding respectful admiration for Their energetic appreciation of lofty aims. While every effort will doubtless be made by high provincial authorities to give due effect to Their Majesties' will, there is much cause to fear that the pressure of immediate necessities, restricting their views to present needs and causing them to lose sight of future advantages, will lead to the conclusion that sale of office must once more be renewed. The object of this memorial is to suggest means whereby such a contingency may be avoided, and after anxious consideration of the subject the Censor conceives that what is needed to this end is the reduction of channels of expenditure rather than the devising of fresh sources of income. He then proceeds to demonstrate in what directions this reduction can be effected. He would do away with all Chü (局), or special offices or departments, the growth of recent years. Such are the *Fa-shen-chü*, or supplementary judicial courts, defence committees, subordinate military departments, &c., which are supported by *Chüan-chü*, or contribution agencies, "re-organisation" departments (善後) supported by *lekin* collectorates, *Shu-chü*, or public institutions for the sale of standard works at a reduced price, and a host of others too numerous to mention. Each *Chü* that is established involves an increase of expenditure and necessitates the employment of officials the multiplication of whom means the multiplication of salaries for their support. These men consider only the fact that the expenditure of their respective offices is supplied by the offices themselves, and forget that each item is a drop that is drained from the public purse. Military operations are now at an end, and yet the offices that military needs created continue to exist, and in the humble opinion of memorialist it would be better to abolish a number of these and so save the expenditure they cause than retain them and the plethora of officials they entail. He suggests therefore that with the exception of extra judicial courts, all other *Chü* be abolished or reduced, and concentration be thereby effected. Finally, he attacks the *lekin* system and its abuses. The returns from the collectorates are less by several millions of taels than they used to be, and it is vain to try and account for the fact by the increase of *Yang-shui*, or duties on goods from abroad. In former days when there was more liberality in the system of collection, the returns were larger than at the present time with all its

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increase of restrictions and watchfulness. All the fines and confiscations do not bring receipts up to their old standard. Under the old régime of Hu Lin-yi, there was a greater respect for authority, a higher standard of official probity, and so efficient a detective system that every item collected went into the Exchequer. As time went on, half the men employed wormed their way into office and looked upon their duties only in the light of private gain, with the result that the meshes of the law grew smaller and smaller, while oppression and exaction gradually increased until the trading class generally have come to look upon [a tax station] with as much dread as they would regard a tiger. Carelessness and recklessness of expenditure have gone on and fines are appropriated to private use, until the sums over and above legitimate salary with which the agents are enriched have become too great for computation. Unless, therefore, a thorough readjustment of the whole system be not speedily contemplated, the evil wrought will be positively indescribable.

March 22nd.—(1) A decree ordering the bestowal of honorary rewards upon the acting Magistrate of the Kuo-mên district in Anhwei, who, with the assistance of the local military authority, succeeded in capturing the leaders of a gang of banditti who had leagued themselves into a sworn brotherhood.

(2) A decree inflicting the penalty of deprivation of two steps of commutative rank upon Liu K'un-yi, Governor-General of the Two Kwang provinces, and ordering that a fine of one year's salary be inflicted on the Governor and Literary Chancellor of Kwangtung.

(3) The *Bei-lêh* Yi Kw'ang is permitted to go into mourning for his father for a hundred days. He has held the office of Grand Chamberlain for many years and has performed his duties carefully and diligently. The Brevet rank of Deputy General of which he was deprived is therefore now restored to him as an act of special grace.

(4) Shih Tsêng 帥曾 is appointed sub-Chancellor of the Grand Secretariat.

(5) Memorial from the Censor Hwang Yuan-shan on the restoration of grain transport by sea, which has already been summarised in a decree of the 2nd March.

March 23rd.—(1) A decree directing the suspension of a votive tablet in the temple of Chin Lung Ssü Ja Wang, or the fourth of the deities that watch over the Yellow River, at the crossing by which access is gained to Shansi from the south, as a token of gratitude for the protection vouchsafed by the River God to grain for the sufferers by famine during the transit across the Yellow River.

(2) Li Hung-mo 李宏謨 is appointed Secretary of the Office of Transmission, and Chang Chih-tung 長之洞 is appointed to the post of Tutor of the Imperial Academy of Learning.

(3) Application from the Governor of the Hu-kwang provinces for permission for Lei Yi-ch'êng, Acting Vice-President of the Board of Punishments, a native of the Hsien-ning District, to attend a second time at the banquet given to successful candidates at the triennial examinations. He is now 84 years of age, and obtained the decree of *Chü-jên* in the year 1821.

(4) The Court of Censors report the receipt of the following appeal :—Petitioner's uncle, a native of the Nan-chang district in Hupeh, who was a literary graduate and a schoolmaster, was robbed of some clothes during his absence from home, by a man called Chang. A charge of theft having been made against the latter, he was arrested, but some disreputable relatives protected him and rescued him from his captors, and then dragged petitioner's uncle from his house, and so beat and ill-treated him that he died in a temple to which they had taken him. The priest of the temple was induced to report the death to the Magistrate, and he, bribed by the murderers, held a hurried inquest at which none of the relatives of deceased were present, and decided that suicide by strangulation was the cause of death, fear of the consequences of an offence he had committed being decided as the motive that tempted him to the act. This verdict was given in open disregard of two livid streaks or bruises round the throat, which proved that death could not have been self-inflicted.

Public Meetings.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

At the Meeting of the Council held at the Council Room, 17, Kiangse Road, Shanghai, on Wednesday, the 16th April, 1879, at 9.30 o'clock a.m.

Present:—Messrs. R. W. Little (chairman), R. H. Artindale, J. S. Fearon, W. Howie, P. G. Hübbe, J. Bell-Irving, E. A. Sassoon, J. Welch, and the Secretary.

The Minutes of the previous meeting are read, confirmed, signed by the Chairman, and passed for publication.

The Cash Statement, for the week ending 12th instant, is submitted, and cheques for sundry accounts are signed.

Native Proclamation. — The following proclamation is allowed to be posted in the Settlement :—

[*Copy.*]

Shanghai, 7th April, 1879.

SIR,—Directed by the Taotai, I have issued the accompanying proclamation against the fraudulent bankruptcy of certain money shops, and beg to enclose three copies of it with the request of laying them before the Consul-General, Mr. Lueder, in order that he may stamp them and forward them to the Municipal Council for publication.

I have, &c.,
The Judge CHEN.

For true translation,
(Signed) P. G. VON MÖLLENDORFF.

Proclamation.

I have received the following despatch from Liu, Taotai of the Su-sung-tai district ; I have been informed that the money shops practice all manner of unheard of cheating in taking the property of others, and that this has become quite an evil of the place. I have therefore issued proclamations severely prohibiting this, and have directed the Magistrate of Shanghai to order the different money shops through the Secretaries of the Bankers' Guild to act accordingly. Every one who practices any of the old schemes will be brought to justice and dealt with according to the law.

In accordance with the above despatch of the Taotai, I make it known that the law says :—Whoever in one of the money shops of the capital hides money, closes his shop and runs away, shall be punished according to the sums embezzled. Should these amount to more than 120 Taels, he is banished to the next province ; if to more than 1,000 Taels, he is banished to the Amur province with hard labour ; if to more than 10,000 Taels, he is condemned to strangulation, but is kept in prison for a certain time, to see whether he is able to pay the amount of his debts. If at the expiration of this term he does not pay, he is imprisoned for life. The law is severe, and I therefore bring it to the notice of all by this proclamation.

All owners of money shops in the Settlements should hereafter do their business according to their means, without practising deceit as heretofore. Whoever is brought before the court for an offence of the above-mentioned nature, he will be dealt with according to the severity of the law, and will be imprisoned until he pays the full amount, without lenience, &c.

For true translation,
(Signed) P. G. VON MÖLLENDORFF.

To P. G. MÖLLENDORFF,
Interpreter to H.G.M.'s Consulate-General.

Native Pawn Shops.—The Superintendent of Police reports that owing to his not having permission from the Native Authorities to examine the books kept at the various Pawn Shops in the City, the police are frequently unable to trace and recover articles stolen from the Settlement ; which interferes very much with their efficiency, and tends to encourage thieving. Decided to address the following letter to the Senior Consul, requesting him to obtain, if possible, the desired permission :—

Shanghai, 19th April, 1879.

SIR,—The Municipal Council are anxious to point out to you the disadvantage that the Police labour under in the prevention or detection of robbery, by their inability to search the pawnshops in the City or suburbs outside the foreign Settlements.

The books of the pawnshops in the Settlements are constantly examined by the Police, and if stolen articles are found, pawnshop-keepers are brought before the Mixed Court Magistrate, and the rightful owner has the opportunity of recovering them. This naturally renders it more difficult for thieves to dispose of their plunder, and therefore acts as a deterrent to crime. But if the thief can get to a pawnshop outside the Settlements, he can at once pawn his plunder, as the pawnshop-keeper cannot be forced to produce his books for examination, or to deliver up the articles if they are found in his possession, except on payment of the amount he has advanced. Very rarely stolen articles are recovered from pawnshops in the City by aid of the Mixed Court, but not one such case has occurred in the past year.

The Municipal Council would be obliged by your requesting the Taotai to give the Municipal Police authority to examine the books of all pawnshops in the City and suburbs. The officer making the examination should be accompanied by a Tipao or by a Yamên officer who would be recognized by the pawnshop-keepers. The last should be obliged to produce every book in which articles on which advances are made are recorded, so that the keepers might not evade the order by keeping double sets of books ; and if stolen property were found, the shop-keeper should be required to produce it at the Yamên on a certain day, when the rightful owner could attend and prove his claim before the Magistrate.

The Council feel sure that if this authority were granted to the Police, their efficiency in the recovery of stolen goods and the prevention of theft would be greatly increased.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
R. W. LITTLE,
Chairman.

To C. LUEDER, Esquire,
His German Majesty's Consul-General,
Senior Consul, Shanghai.

Public Garden.—Letter from Mr. Poitevin submitted, asking permission to erect a pavilion in the Garden for the sale of ices, cakes, and non-intoxicating liquors. Decided to reply that the permission cannot be granted, the Ratepayers having decided that no building of any kind can be erected in the Garden.

Bubbling Well Road.—Decided that two extra policemen be placed on this road, one at the Skew bridge and one at the Double Bend, for the purpose of exercising some supervision over native carriages, and to prevent anything like furious driving.

ADMINISTRATION MUNICIPALE DE LA CONCESSION FRANCAISE.

Résumé des déliberations du Conseil.

Séance du 25 Mars, 1879, sous la présidence de M. E. Millot. Membres :—M.M. G. Bluntschli, R. Buschmann, H. Lester, H. Vinay, Ed. Wheeley ; E. Caussade, Secrétaire.

Approbation du Procès Verbal de la dernière séance et du Procès Verbal du Comite des Finances.

Travaux Publics.—Examen des soumissions recueillies pour les travaux relatifs à la nouvelle muraille de quai en bois au poste de l'Est et à la reconstruction du pont de la Pagode.

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Police.—Le Conseil choisit M. Binos, Chef de la Garde Municipale, comme délégué pour juger les contraventions aux réglements de voirie.

Fire Department.—Sur la demande du Secrétaire de la "Fire Commission," le Conseil autorise le Secrétaire à envoyer un chèque pour la balance de la subvention allouée au "Fire Department" pour l'année 1879.

Lecture et approbation des rapports du Médecine, des chefs de service, et de l'Inspecteur des marchés.

La séance est levée.

YANGTSZE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION.

The annual general meeting of Shareholders in this Association was held Friday afternoon, at the offices of Messrs. Russell and Co. Mr. F. B. Forbes, Chairman of the Board of Directors, presided; and there were present—Messrs. C. Lucas and W. Meyerink (Directors); M. P. Evans, A. André, J. G. Purdon, M. E. Towell, J. Jaques, J. Buchanan, J. Mackenzie, J. M. Young, M. W. Boyd, Noel Smith, R. Hough, S. D. Webb, F. D. Hitch, and P. Maclean (Auditor);—representing 728 shares.

A quorum being present, the Chairman called upon Mr. Peter Maclean to read the notice convening the meeting and the minutes of the special general meeting held on the 7th May, 1878.

This having been done, the Chairman moved—

That the minutes of the special general meeting of May 7th, 1878, be confirmed.

Mr. Meyerink seconded the motion, which was adopted.

The Chairman then said—Gentlemen, the Directors are very glad to lay before you such a good Report and Accounts at the first annual general meeting which has been held under the new organisation. The advantages of the new organisation to contributors of business are now very evident. The amount of business which has been done by the Association during the last fifteen months has been much greater than it ever was before; but on account of the large decline in the rates on a great many important classes of risks, the net amount of premia received is only about the same in proportion to the time as it was for the previous year. The losses are also about the same proportionately, and yet, with an equal net result, the Association is able to offer a return of thirty-three per cent. to contributors instead of twenty-five per cent., which was the amount last year. I think this large return cannot fail to bring us a considerable accession of business during the present year. The sum of Tls. 12,816, standing to the credit of the Special Reserve Fund on account of the salvage of the steamer *Japan*, represents the Association's share of the sum of $100,000, which was the net gain on the salvage operations. It is probable, however, that this amount will be somewhat reduced because there are accounts pending with certain Home offices which were interested in the salvage of the treasure, and the law suit by certain parties in Hongkong against the salvage insurance companies, decided in our favour, has been appealed to England, and, of course, we cannot tell what the result of that will be. I shall be glad to answer any questions the Shareholders may have to put in reference to the Report and Accounts, and I will now move—

That the Report of the Directors and the Accounts of the Association for the fifteen months ending 31st December, 1878, as presented, be accepted and passed.

Mr. C. Lucas seconded.

The Chairman asked if any Shareholder had any remarks to make before he put the motion to the meeting.

No one rising to speak, the Chairman submitted the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

REPORT.

The Directors have now to submit to the Shareholders the Accounts of the Association for the fifteen months ending 31st December, 1878.

The Underwriting Account shows a very satisfactory result, the net premia, less re-insurances, amounting to Tls. 327,622.07, while the claims and losses paid have been only Tls. 66,425.13. After making due allowance for pending claims, the balance available for distribution among policy holders is Tls. 107,000, equal to a return of 33 per cent. on contributory premia.

The Bonds of the Chinese Imperial Loan of 1877, which were in Messrs. Baring Brothers & Co.'s hands, have been sold in London at a profit from exchange and otherwise of about 19 per cent. on the cost of the investment. Pending the adjustment of the accounts, the sum of Tls. 18,000 has been placed to credit of Special Reserve Fund, as estimated profit.

The Association has received an allotment of Tls. 100,000 in the new Chinese Silver Loan.

In accordance with Section 43 of the Articles of Agreement, the Directors have appropriated Tls. 21,000 as extra dividend to Shareholders, at the rate of 5 per cent. on the capital, payable on the 28th instant. The balance remaining at the credit of Special Reserve Fund is Tls. 206,369.88.

During the absence of Mr. C. Lucas, Mr. J. H. Pinckvoss was appointed a Director in his place, and on the departure of Mr. M. W. Boyd and Mr. M. P. Evans from Shanghai, Mr. Wm. Meyerink and Mr. T. Forrest joined the Board.

Mr. C. Krebs and Mr. T. Forrest have recently resigned their seats at the Board, owing to their departure from this port, but the Directors have not thought it necessary to fill the vacancies for the short interval before the Annual General Meeting.

ACCOUNTS.

UNDERWRITING ACCOUNT.

For the fifteen months ending 31st December, 1878.

Dr.	Taels.
To Claims paid, less Re-insurances	66,425.13
,, Commissions and Charges	54,6 6.43
,, Directors' and Auditor's Fees	3,375.00
,, Interest paid on Shareholders' Capital at 12 per cent. per annum	63,000.00
,, Amount transferred to Special Reserve Fund to meet pending claims	33,155.51
,, Balance, divisible among Policy-holders as estimated profit on Underwriting business, being at the rate of 33 per cent. on amount of contributory premia	107,000.00
Taels....	327,622.07

Cr.	Taels.
By net Premia, less Re-insurances	327,622.07
Taels....	327,622.07

SPECIAL RESERVE FUND.—17th April, 1879.

Dr.		Taels.
To Payments of Claims and Return Premia Account former years	16,760.52	
Less received from Re-insuring Offices, Return Premia and payment of Claims Account former years	7,515.32	
		9,245.20
,, Amount appropriated as extra dividend to Shareholders at the rate of 5 per cent. on Capital		21,000.00
,, Balance		206,369.88
Total....		236,615.08

Cr.	Taels.
By Balance 30th September, 1877	104,144.48
,, Interest	59,737.37
,, Exchange	3,534.75
,, *Japan* Salvage Account	12,816.00
,, Amount unclaimed from Returns appropriated to Policy-holders in former years	5,224.97
,, Estimated profit on investment in Chinese Imperial Loan of 1877	18,000.00
,, Amount transferred from Underwriting Account to meet pending claims	33,155 51
Total....	236,615.08

BALANCE SHEET.—17th April, 1879.

Liabilities.	Taels
Capital	420,000.00
Permanent Reserve	230,000.00
Special Reserve Fund	206,369.88
Balance Underwriting Account	107,000.00
Extra Dividend to Shareholders	21,000.00
Working Account, 1879	9,723.76
Taels..	994,093.64

Assets.	Taels
United States Government Securities in London (market value 7th April, 1879, £80,000)	275,233.94
Mortgages on Real Estate in Shanghai	150,000.00
Bank Deposits in Shanghai	441,325.98
Baring Brothers and Co.	75,315.23
London Furniture Account	374 25
Secretaries	33,740.50
Sundry Agents 47,109.67	
Less Sundry Claims advised as paid since 1st January, 1879 ..... 29,005.93	
	18,103.74
Taels..	994,093.64

E. & O. E.

RUSSELL & Co.,
Secretaries.

P. MACLEAN, *Auditor.*
F. B. FORBES, *Chairman.*
C. LUCAS, } *Directors.*
WM. MEYERINK, }

Shanghai, 17th April, 1879.

The Chairman said the Directors understood, by the passing of the resolution, that the passage in the Report relating to the distribution among policy-holders of Taels 107,000, equal to a return of 33 per cent on contributory premia, was confirmed by the meeting.—The next business, he said, was the election of a Chairman and Directors for the ensuing year.

Mr. Jaques proposed—

That Mr. F. B. Forbes be elected Chairman, and Messrs. M. W. Boyd, C. Lucas, W. Meyerink and S. D. Webb, be elected Directors to serve until the next Annual General Meeting.

Mr. M. P. Evans seconded.

The motion was carried *nem. con.*

Mr. Young next proposed—

That Mr. Peter Maclean be elected Auditor to serve until the next Annual General Meeting.

Mr. F. D. Hitch seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Chairman said this was all the business to come regularly before the meeting.

Mr. Young said before the Shareholders separated, he should like to know whether it could not be arranged for contributing Shareholders to get something out of the Special Reserve Fund. From the very satisfactory statement of Accounts that had been presented, he saw there was a considerable amount to the credit of this fund. It had almost doubled itself since the beginning of the new organization, and if an extra amount were given to contributing Shareholders it might tend to consolidate the business of the Company and induce Shareholders to become contributors, and also induce persons in a position to contribute business to become Shareholders in the Company. The Board of Directors might take into consideration whether an extra return might not be made to contributing Shareholders, in proportion to the business they gave; and he thought the adoption of such a course would promote the general interests of the whole body of Shareholders. It was a suggestion that could be made at this meeting, and he thought it was desirable the opinion of the Shareholders present should be taken in regard to it.

The Chairman said he did not very well see how Mr. Young's suggestion could be carried out without consulting the general body of Shareholders in some way.

Mr. Young replied that he had brought the matter forward now because the Shareholders were present, and under the Articles of Agreement the Shareholders had power to adopt his suggestion. He read the 43rd Section of the Article, which says:—"No appropriation of the Special Reserve Fund, for any purposes other than those herein enumerated, shall be made, except by vote at an Annual General Meeting."

The Chairman inquired whether Mr. Young proposed that they should vote a return for the past year.

Mr. Young replied in the negative, saying the accounts for the past year had been presented and passed. His suggestion was made with the view to a future arrangement, and he directed attention to clause

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"E." of the 43rd Section, explaining that an addition might be made to it to include an extra appropriation to contributing Shareholders, which, he repeated, would be an inducement for them to give more business to the Company.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that before anything could be added to Section 43, or any of the Articles altered, under Section 52, a resolution would have to be carried by the votes of the holders of two-thirds of all the shares of the Association.

Mr. YOUNG said it appeared from the first clause he had read from the 43rd Section, that a vote at the annual general meeting was sufficient to appropriate money from the Special Reserve Fund in the way he had suggested.

Mr. LUCAS thought all the Shareholders should be consulted on a matter of this kind.

Mr. YOUNG was of the same opinion, and said he had merely made a suggestion for the consideration of the Directors.

The CHAIRMAN referred to the 20th Section, which provided that the Secretaries might take the opinion of all the Shareholders upon any matter within the rules, though out of the usual course of business, by sending to each of them, or to their agents at Shanghai, a circular in writing, and might act upon the decision of the majority of the Shareholders who signed the circular by themselves, or by any agent, or person authorized to act for them.

Mr. YOUNG said, in accordance with that Section, the Directors, if they thought his suggestion deserved their consideration, would perhaps ascertain the view of the Shareholders and act accordingly.

Mr. ANDRE thought it would be a mistake to disturb the present arrangements with regard to the division of the profits, and advocated that the Directors should make no change.

Mr. MACLEAN thought 33 per cent., the amount for the past year, was a very good return to make.

The CHAIRMAN understood Mr. Young's contention to be that if his suggestion were adopted it might bring more business to the Association.

Mr. YOUNG believed that would be the result. It was in the interests of the Association, and the whole body of Shareholders, that he made the suggestion.

Mr. ANDRE maintained that the suggestion could only be adopted at the cost of other Shareholders, because if money left the Company, the Company would not be so strong, and it would be better, therefore, for the money to remain where it was.

Mr. MACLEAN thought the Shareholders residing away from Shanghai would object to the adoption of the suggestion.

The CHAIRMAN said the Secretaries could send out a circular to ascertain the feeling of the whole body of Shareholders in the matter.

Mr. MACLEAN thought the best plan to adopt was to leave it to the Directors. They could consider the matter, and take what steps they thought desirable.

Mr. LUCAS said to get more shares in the hands of contributors would certainly bring more business to the Association.

Mr. BUCHANAN was of the opinion that the money could not be taken as had been suggested, without affecting the position either of contributors who were not Shareholders, or of non-contributing Shareholders. The extra return would have to come out of the pockets of one class or the other.

Mr. YOUNG was of the opposite opinion, and expressed the belief that it would put more money into the pockets of the non-contributing Shareholders, and also thought the general business of the Company would benefit by it.

The CHAIRM[illegible] the Directors would take the matter [illegible] their consideration, and they would take steps to ascertain the feeling of the whole body of Shareholders on the matter.

Mr. BUCHANAN then proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the Directors, and the meeting terminated.

Correspondence.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CUSTOMS POST OFFICE AT TIENTSIN.

To the Editor of the
NORTH-CHINA HERALD.

DEAR SIR,—I see your correspondents have on several occasions alluded to the detention of letters, &c., forwarded through the Customs Post Office northwards. The detention, probably, did not, after all, happen at Tientsin, but somewhere else along the line. Some particulars relating to the status and working of this service at Chinan Fu may be of interest to you and throw some light on a vexed question. At first the office of the Customs mail was in the city on the great street. There its placards might be seen, announcing rates of postage and the times of departure and supposed arrival of mails.

Suddenly it disappeared, with all its belongings. It next found a temporary resting place at the extreme end of the western suburb. But in a short time it was missing again, and no one could tell where it had gone. Indeed, it was stated on authority that the Customs' mail was no longer in existence. But it was found to have located itself at Chi-ho Hsien, about 40 *li* distant from Chinan Fu. About this time, a large and apparently important mail came into the city on a wheelbarrow. The man was utterly at a loss where to go or what to do, till directed to Chi-ho Hsien by a foreigner who accidentally met him. After a while, the office returned again into the city, but not publicly. Why all these changes? On the street it was said that the representatives of this "service" were driven out of the city by the officials. It was also said that the officials, not finding any authority connected with it which they recognized, were not pleased with the appearance of this new, and so far as they knew, unauthorized uniform. Hence fearing that it had no responsible head, and that if permitted to remain, and important letters, native or foreign, should be lost, the local authorities would get into trouble, it was again compelled to remove beyond the local jurisdiction. It was also rumoured among the Chinese, that the Government post was used in carrying these mails (probably by means of a small bonus), which was an additional reason for sending its agents away.

The man at the head of the "service," complained, after the return to the city, that his own mail had been seized, or for some reason detained. He was a month in arrears for running expenses, and yet he could not withdraw his horses, nor could he come to Tientsin to inquire into the matter; for then he would have been seized as a defaulter.

This seems to indicate ignorance of the "Customs' mail service," on the part of Chinese officials who should have been informed of its existence in a way to secure their aid in furthering its interests;—also a determined opposition on their part. It is not for me to say where the blame rests, but certainly there is blame somewhere.

Yours obediently,
SCRIBE.

Tientsin, 14th April.

Miscellaneous.

CONSECRATION OF A ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP AT TUNG-KA-DOO.

The fine cathedral at Tung-ka-doo was on Sunday the scene of a Roman Catholic ceremonial as striking for its ornateness as for its rarity in this part of the world—the consecration of a newly-appointed Bishop of that Church, in obedience, we believe, to a bull of Pope Leo XIII.

The Rev. Father Valentine Garnier, S.J., was the priest upon whom has been conferred this high dignity, and his new style and title, confirmed by Sunday's ceremonial, is "Bishop of Titopolis *in partibus infidelium* and Vicar-Apostolic of Kiang-nan." The early hour of eight a.m. was appointed for the commencement of the ceremony, and soon after that hour it was well-nigh impossible to obtain entrance to any part of the Cathedral, the crowd of Chinese being so great — they literally swarmed everywhere in the building where they could obtain access, standing upon the benches in the nave and aisles and crowding and crushing as it pleased their fancy. The Cathedral is reputed to be capacious enough to hold 4,000 persons on ordinary occasions, and if this be true, there were assuredly very many more squeezed into it at one time during the ceremony; but there was an almost constant succession of comers and goers on the fringes of the great crowd, while those lining the barriers, or who had secured front places, found themselves so jammed as to be unable to obtain exit if they wished it ever so much. Of course, most of these were heathen on-lookers, but the number of native Christian converts was something extraordinary to behold—they were pointed out to us in hundreds, the majority apparently being women, who conducted themselves with a modest, quiet deportment, in marked contrast to the crowd that filled other parts of the Cathedral.

As in the eyes of Roman Catholics was becoming on such an important occasion, the greatest possible amount of decoration was observable in every direction throughout the edifice—a blaze of gilding and colour meeting the glance on every hand, from roof almost to floor—the wonder being from whence such an immense amount of gaudy material could have been obtained even for such a purpose in the Far East. However, setting such a speculation aside, the material was there, in the shape of banners, shields, long lines of drapery, &c., interspersed with oil paintings of sacred subjects, and bearing beautifully emblazoned monograms (as we suppose it is correct to style them), texts in the Chinese character, and other means of ornamentation. The altar was of course a great centre of decoration, and upon it and its surroundings the utmost taste had been lavished—almost overloading it with the splendour of its adornments.

The means of accommodation inside the Cathedral not being deemed sufficient for the vast multitude who thronged to see, ranges of benches were placed outside, facing the open doors, and these, too, were crowded with occupants—the spectators, in short, overflowing into the adjacent streets, even into positions from whence it was impossible to obtain a glimpse of the ceremony—and this lasted throughout the three hours and a half occupied in the Bishop's consecration.

The ceremony of consecration, as given in the printed programme, was as follows:—

The consecrating Bishop and the nominee to be consecrated are to keep fast on the day before consecration.

Two chapels are adorned for the occasion, a main one for the consecrator, and a side one for the nominee to be consecrated.

The procession of the clergy with the nominee and two assistants and the consecrator on entering the church, kneel down before the main altar; after a short prayer, the consecrator goes to his seat on the left side from the altar, and dresses for Mass; the nominee with his assistants go to the side chapel where they put on the amict, alb, cingulum, stole and cope.

Then the consecrator goes before the main altar, where he sits down facing the people.

The nominee is led by his two assistants before the consecrator. There the senior assistant says: "Right Reverend Father, the holy

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mother catholic church asks you to raise the priest here present to the charge of Bishop." The consecrator answers: "Have you the apostolic mandate?" The assistant: "We have." The consecrator: "Let it be read."

Here the bull of the Pope appointing the nominee is read by a notary.

Then the nominee comes and kneels down before the consecrator to take the oath of fealty and obedience to the Pope, promising to go to councils when called, to give an account of his ministration at the regular times, and also not to alienate any property of the church without the consent of the Pope.

After this the nominee is examined on his dispositions and doctrine. He is asked:

Whether he be ready to conform in all things to holy-writs.

Whether he will teach the people by words and deeds according to scripture.

Whether he will receive, keep and teach the tradition of the Fathers and the constitutions of the Apostolic See.

Whether he will in all things belonging to canonical authority show his faith, submission and obedience to the Roman Pontiff, successor of blessed Peter?

Whether he will give good example in his behaviour.

—Keep and teach chastity and temperance.

—Serve in holy things and abstain from covetous trade.

—Keep and teach humility and patience.

—Be kind and merciful to the poor and pilgrims.

Then follow questions on the creed.

This examination being over, Mass is begun by consecrator and nominee together until the consecrator goes up to the altar; then the nominee with his assistants goes to his side chapel where he takes off the cope, puts on the sandals and pastoral cross, lets loose the stole, takes on the tunic, dalmatica, chasuble and maniple, and reads Mass up to the gradual. The choir sings Introit—Kyrie—Gloria.

After the Epistle and Gradual, the consecrator sits at the altar, his face towards the people; and the nominee comes to hear what his duties are to be. The consecrator says, "The Bishop must judge, interpret, ordain, offer the sacrifice, baptise and confirm."

Then he invites the audience to pray. All kneel down, the nominee prostrates himself on the ground, and the Litany is sung.

The consecrator imposes the book of the Gospels on the head and shoulders of the nominee.

The consecrator and assistants impose the hands to give the Holy-Ghost.

The consecrator sings the first part of the consecrating preface.

Then he begins the "Veni Creator Spiritus." Whilst this is sung by the choir, he anoints the head of the nominee.

After which he sings the last part of the same preface. Begins the Antiphone and Psalm 132. Whilst this is sung by the choir, he anoints the hands of the nominee.

He then blesses and presents the crosier.

He blesses and puts on the ring.

He presents the book of the Gospels.

Then peace is given by the consecrator and assistants.

The consecrator goes to his seat, the nominee with his assistants to the side chapel, where they wash their hands and proceed with Mass.

Gospel, Creed, Offertory.

Then the nominee comes before the consecrator and offers two wax candles, two loaves of bread and two casks of wine.

After which the consecrator and nominee go on in the celebration of Mass on the same altar. The preface is sung by the consecrator. The choir sings "Sanctus."

Peace is given before communion. The consecrator partakes first and gives to the nominee of the same host and same chalice. They both likewise take the ablution.

The consecrator sings the orisons and gives the solemn blessing.

Then he blesses the mitre and puts it on.

He blesses the gloves and puts them on.

The new consecrated Bishop is led to his throne.

All come before the altar and the consecrator begins the "Te Deum." Whilst it is sung, the new Bishop goes through the church giving his blessings right and left.

The consecrator begins the anthem "Firmetur," and says the prayer.

Then the new Bishop gives the solemn blessing.

The new Bishop thanks the consecrator and assistants, kneeling down three times and singing "Admultos annos."

Peace is given.

The last Gospel is said and all go to their respective places, where they undress and say the prayers of thanksgiving.

The following Bishops, we are informed, were to take part in the ceremony:—Bishop Zanoli, of Hupeh; Bishop Gentili, of Foochow; and Bishop Guierry, of Ningpo; in addition to a large body of priests, including a considerable proportion of natives, wearing the same kind of vestments as the foreigners. The choir, it was understood, was a special one, and the members certainly sung the music allotted to them in superior and impressive style. The brass band of the St. Cecilian Society played on the occasion, and at the conclusion of the ceremony and during the final procession performed a grand march very effectively.

Mention of one marked feature of the proceedings must not be omitted—the presence of a considerable body of foreign-armed Chinese troops in and around the Cathedral, who were present by permission of the authorities, and who, with fixed bayonets, no doubt were influential in preserving something like order in the large assembly. They were under the command of two Mandarins, and were accompanied by ten or a dozen drummers and trumpeters. In the closing procession these musicians led the way, and in obedience to a signal from their officers, and while inside the Cathedral, the trumpeters blew some triumphal blasts, almost drowning the St. Cecilians, who nevertheless kept on playing, undismayed by the discords produced.

Next to the drummers and trumpeters, came a small body of native infantry, also with fixed bayonets, preceded by the two Mandarins with drawn swords. These were followed by some ecclesiastics, next to whom came the Consecrating Bishop in full vestments of cloth of gold, wearing his mitre and carrying a magnificent crosier, the two corners of his upper garment being each borne by an assistant clad in more humble, yet striking attire. They were followed by the newly-consecrated Bishop, who was also clad in cloth of gold, wearing his mitre and likewise carrying his crosier. He walked alone, being followed by the numerous body of priests before mentioned, walking in pairs, in addition to whom there were a number of Chinese youths who usually officiate as acolytes, and "serve," as it is termed, during Mass.

The procession having left the Cathedral, the spacious building was soon emptied of its occupants, and so terminated one of the most novel, interesting, and, for several reasons, impressive, religious ceremonies ever performed in this neighbourhood.

TRAGEDY IN HONGKEW.

After a lengthened immunity in the Settlement from crimes of a serious nature, they now are occurring in quick succession, an exemplification of the old adage that it never rains but it pours, and last week was singularly productive of sensational events. The circumstances of the brutal murder at the teashop in the Maloo, and of the daring robbery by armed thieves in the Canton Road have already been fully recorded; and now, another sensation, closing this eventful week, which was only Wednesday brought to the knowledge of the police authorities, has to be chronicled. In the Woosung Road, Hongkew, is a boarding house, which was kept by a Cantonese named Tho-kee. To assist him in the business he had a young man, purchased by him in his youth, and who, according to Chinese custom, was looked upon as his son and treated as such. On Saturday last, about midday, Tho-kee and his assistant had a quarrel. The persons in the house at the time say it arose in consequence of $20 being missed from a box belonging to a boarder, who has since gone to Hongkong, and that the assistant struck Tho-kee with his fist. Thereupon, it is said, Tho-kee seized a Japanese fan-dagger knife and stabbed his assistant three times in the thigh and lower part of the body, causing blood to appear. But, as yet, the precise circumstances of the stabbing are not known. It seems, however, that the injuries inflicted were of so serious a nature that the young man's life, from the outset, was despaired of, for it has been ascertained that in the evening Tho-kee went to the house of a coolie, in Bamboo town, and represented that his son was very sick and likely to die; that if he did die he wanted the body buried immediately, and with this object in view he gave the coolie $7½ to obtain a coffin and requested him to make all necessary arrangements for the burial. This took place at six o'clock in the evening, and four hours later Tho-kee again went to the coolie's house and said his son was dead and he wanted the body buried at once. The coolie said he could not bury it at so short a notice, whereupon Tho-kee replied that foreigners came to dine at his shop and he must have the body removed without delay, if even it could not be buried. The coolie said he would remove the body to his own house, and he did so about midnight. It was then placed in a coffin, and on the following day conveyed to the Canton Cemetery, at Sinza, where it still remains. When the body was put into the coffin, the coolie says he noticed blood on the legs, but he made no examination to see where it came from. It is also said that deceased died from the injuries he received, at four o'clock in the afternoon, and if this be true, he would be dead when Tho-kee went to the coolie's house in Bamboo town on the first occasion.

A most remarkable feature of the affair is the way in which it has been kept quiet so long. Though there were three or four other persons living in the house at the time no communication was made to the police. It seems that when the body was safely disposed of, Tho-kee decamped; at all events he has not been seen in the neighbourhood since Sunday last. His sudden disappearance and the absence of the deceased were naturally much talked about by the Cantonese, and eventually the fact of the murder oozed out, and a coloured foreigner hearing it went Wednesday morning to the Hongkew Police Station and gave information to the authorities. Inquiries were at once made into the matter, and the foregoing facts are the result of the investigation. A woman living in the boarding-house, supposed to be Tho-kee's wife, and two coolies engaged on the premises, as well as the coolie living in Bamboo town, have been arrested. The woman and the coolie, we hear, were sent to the Mixed Court to give their statement to Chên, the Magistrate, so that he could take what steps he deemed necessary. The other prisoners are in custody at the Hongkew Police Station.

Tho-kee being a Canton man, it was thought not unlikely that he might take passage by the French mail steamer *Peiho*, if he had not already left Shanghai; but as there was not time to obtain a warrant from the French Consul to search the vessel as she was on the point of leaving, it could not be ascertained whether he was on board or not in consequence of the Captain's point blank refusal to allow the ship to be searched, or the passengers inspected, without the production of a warrant.

Further enquiries respecting the above tragedy, show that the victim was removed from the lodging-house by Tho-kee, his assailant, and the coolie living in Bamboo town, before he was actually dead. He was placed on a door and covered with matting; and in the dusk of the evening was taken out of the house by the back door and along back streets to the coolie's

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house in Bamboo town, where he remained until he died, which was about ten o'clock at night, and the next morning the body was conveyed to the Canton Cemetery at Sinza. This coolie, it is said, has an unenviable notoriety for the expedition with which he disposed of the dead, but hitherto his business seems to have been confined to women, whose bodies have been taken to his house and buried in a few hours. In some instances, it is alleged, he has received women before they were dead, waited until they died, and then buried them immediately. He protested to Chên, the Mixed Court Magistrate, that he was ignorant of the deceased having been stabbed; while the woman who was living with Tho-kee, and is believed to have seen all the proceedings in the house, made an unsatisfactory statement. She alleged that deceased before removal from the house, was attended by four native doctors, but was unable to give the name or address of any of them. She and the coolie mentioned above were remitted to the Chehsien in the city, for him to hear their statements and take what steps he deems necessary. On Thurday, at the Mixed Court, four men living in Tho-kee's house, one of whom is a native doctor, were brought up in the custody of the Hongkew police, and after each had been examined they were also sent into the city.

Six persons altogether were sent into the city to be examined by the District Magistrate respecting the murder, namely, the coolie who disposed of the body, the woman who is supposed to be the wife of the supposed murderer Tho-kee, and four persons who are alleged to have been in the house when the occurrence took place. It is said each of them were examined, and, after their statements had been written down, the District Magistrate ordered their release, expressing the opinion that deceased was a bad boy and deserved his fate. Tho-kee has not yet been heard of, but should he appear again in Shanghai, it is said he is to be sent into the city to give his account of the affair.

SIR THOMAS WADE AND THE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

(China Overland Trade Report.)

The return of Sir Thomas Wade to China has been the signal for the different Chambers of Commerce to address him on various matters connected with trade at the Treaty ports and in Hongkong. The Chefoo Convention has not proved the panacea that some few sanguine souls fondly hoped it would for the commercial ills that ruffle the minds and lighten the pockets of British and Foreign merchants in China. Treaties have been concluded with the Government of Peking that, if observed in spirit as well as in letter, would secure to foreigners valuable but not extraordinary privileges. Unhappily, however, the Chinese observe the Treaties neither in spirit nor in letter, and as time has gone on and no stern voice reminding them of their obligations and insisting upon their fulfilment has made itself heard, they have encroached more and more upon the rights accorded to foreigners after the wars by which the Empire was first opened to trade. Thus it comes about that the commerce with China, which at one time was highly remunerative, has been hampered with vexatious restrictions and burdened with new taxes never authorised by treaty, by which foreigners are placed at a serious disadvantage and some branches of trade, once very promising, have been prematurely strangled.

The Foochow Chamber was the first to meet the British Minister, and on the 26th ultimo presented to him a memorial on the *lekin* levy on opium at Foochow, which they showed was double that imposed at neighbouring ports. This was the only grievance brought to the fore, and Sir Thomas promised to give attention to the question. On the 7th instant the Minister had an interview with the Hongkong Chamber to discuss various matters relating to the trade of the Colony; and, on his arrival in Shanghai, he will probably be waited upon by the members of the Chamber there in reference to the *lekin* dues and sundry clauses of the unratified Convention. Unfortunately, as it seems to most people, the meeting between Sir Thomas Wade and the Hongkong Chamber was a private one, and no report has reached the papers of what took place. The general public of Hongkong naturally feel great interest in the subjects that were discussed on that occasion, and it is not easy for outsiders to understand what reason there was for reserve. It is possible, however, that Sir Thomas felt that his tongue would be tied if reporters were present, and that the interests of the mercantile community would be equally well served by his utterances not being placed on record. However that may be, the result of the meeting seems to have been about as vague and unsatisfactory as most other interviews of the sort. So, at least, we gather from the letter of "a Member of the Chamber" to the *Daily Press*, in which he broadly states that no help can be expected from the British Minister in the direction of putting a stop to the blockade of the Colony maintained by the Hoppo's cruisers. The question of the issue of transit passes at the new treaty ports, and the possibility of inducing the Chinese authorities to open up the water-ways of Kwangtung to steamer navigation were also brought up, but we are unable to say whether Sir Thomas expressed any decided opinion on these matters. As far as the much vexed question of the Blockade of Hongkong is concerned, the community of the Colony must now either put their trust in His Excellency the Governor or go to the fountain head, and address the Throne. Mr. Hennessy solemnly assured the residents on his advent to Hongkong that the main policy of his administration should be the promotion and protection of the mercantile interests of the Colony, and they cannot now do better than to put him to the test.

Writing on the same subject, and heading its article, "A public interview with closed doors," the *China Mail* says:—"Considerable interest has been felt in the approaching interview of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce with H.M.'s Minister to the Court of Peking, and something definite was looked for from so great an authority as Sir Thomas Wade upon the burning questions of the Chefoo Convention and the Hongkong Blockade. But the hopes of the community have been somewhat rudely shaken by the decision of the Minister Plenipotentiary declining to meet the Chamber in other than an informal manner. What possible advantage can be gained by the interview under the conditions agreed upon, viz., that the public should not be permitted to know what takes place at the interview until this time next year, when a paragraph in the Chamber's Annual Report may possibly note that the interesting ceremony of exchanging views was gone through—we are rather at a loss to discover. It may be alleged that the mercantile communities of China have not yet reached that political status which would justify the administration in power at home, or the Ambassador accredited by it, to attach much importance to their deliverances. Still, it would have been a graceful act on the part of Sir Thomas Wade, as well as an act for which His Excellency has had many precedents, had he met the public openly and fairly in this matter on an occasion like the present. He might not have had very much information to give us of a satisfactory nature; but that little ought to have been given, and we think that the public had a right to expect it. There may be some reason for this reticence, in these days of telegraphs and rapid mail steamers, of ever-present and active journalists in all parts of the world (Chinese as well as foreign); but we cannot but express our regret that some means was not hit upon for giving to the world a few of the opinions of the British Minister upon the present state of our relations with China."

LETTER FROM A CHINAMAN IN TOKIO TO LI HUNG-CHANG.

(Translated from the *Kinji Hioron* by *Japan Herald.*)

A certain *samurai* of the former Aidzu *Han*, who has lately returned from China, has told another person that a Chinese resident in Tokio has written a letter to Li Hung-chang, who is the greatest man in more than four hundred provinces, and holds the key of Mongolia and China in his hands, in the following terms:—

"While I was in my own country, I heard that in Japan, although a small island, and a mere spot in the ocean, a number of able men had lately come forward, the one after the other; that there was the best understanding between her Government and her people; that the latter were prosperous; that the army was strong; that the whole country was rapidly progressing in civilization like the sun ascending the firmament from the horizon, and that in short there was no comparison between Japan and our own declining and decaying Empire. I therefore thought that we ought to keep on friendly terms with her, and avoid all dispute, and this appeared also to be the intentions of our Imperial Government. But when I had arrived at Japan and had looked around me, I soon discovered that we have nothing to fear; a wide gulf separates the Government from the people, and is daily widening more and more; the people are miserably poor, the whole country is steeped in poverty, and a wail of distress is heard from all directions and all classes; although the soldiers are brave, they only number 50,000, which is less than one of the army corps under your Excellency's command. And as for her men of ability, Saigo has fallen on the battle-field, and Okubo has been assassinated; Soyeshima still survives, but he does not meddle in politics. The responsible men are now two — and —, but neither of them counts for anything, and under them are —, —, and —, and others, all ordinary men, who only care for outside appearances, and who may easily be managed. I now deeply regret that our Imperial Government did not act with more energy in the Formosan affair. Your Excellency may henceforth free your mind from all anxiety about Japan, and devote your attention to the internal affairs of our Empire," &c., &c.

With what feelings, oh our readers! have you perused this letter? We had no time to enquire whether the report be true or not, for we wished at once to put this letter before our countrymen as a mirror. The wide gulf that separates the Government from the people, the poverty and the distress of the latter, are just the things we have been lamenting ourselves, and in our desire to see them helped we may even have represented them as worse than they really are; nevertheless it is impossible to deny that what the Chinaman has written in his letter is a true picture of the state of our country, and one of which both our Government and our people ought to take note.

For several years our Government has been laboring hard to obtain a revision of the treaties, and when the United States of America consented to alter the Customs tariff, which forms part of the treaty, we were full of joy and felt sure that we at last were going to succeed; but the cunning and voracious British lion bars the way, and the stone, which we with infinite fatigue had placed on the top of the hill has again rolled down in the valley, and this is merely because our country is not strong enough to compel England to consent.

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Our people are fond of new inventions, and are very skilful in imitating other people's handiwork; in consequence of our having copied the paraphernalia of European and American civilization, we became overbearing towards China and other Asiatic countries, and we looked down upon them and abused them as stupid, mulish and profoundly asleep; and these countries became astonished at our splendid show of progress, and a great Empire on the continent of Asia feared a small island in the East. Fortunately for us we have hitherto had no serious difficulty with that Empire; but now it seems to have discovered our real circumstances, and in future even a trifling matter may cause the waters in the Eastern seas to be dyed with blood, and a number of men from both countries to be slain.

The thing is that our people want to go ahead too quickly, and only care for outward show; they have no steadiness for slow and laborious work. Take our much vaunted progress; shall we ever be able to rival either Europe or America? Whenever we want to move a step forward, either a lion or a wolf stops the way. Take our military force; shall we be permitted to live in peace in Asia? Even those men, whom we looked down upon, have now discovered our real condition. Ah! both with regard to our progress and to our military force, we are far from being able to do just as we please. It is therefore time that both our Government and our people kept a sharp look out, and we wish that our contemporaries will take this article of ours to heart.

THE RISINGS IN THE SOUTH.

(China Mail.)

The above-named paper hears that several hundreds of Hakkas have surrendered, and that the authorities in Hainan are awaiting the instructions of their superiors as to the treatment of the prisoners. The remaining Hakka force is estimated at 3,000 men, whose future decision, whether to resist or to surrender, will probably be guided by the course pursued towards their *quondam* associates.

The rebel Li Yang-ts'ai is, says the same paper, still encamped in the interior of Annam; and as the Chinese Commander-in-chief in his vicinity has repeatedly called upon him to commence the attack—which Li has hitherto gallantly declined to do, assigning as his reason that he has no grudge against the troops of China—affairs will probably continue *in statu quo* until a less chicken-hearted Imperialist takes the field.

TRADE IN THE UNITED STATES.

(The Times.)

The following important letter appeared in the above paper over the signature, "H. O. N.," about the middle of February last:—

Sir,—Trade is reviving in the United States, while it is declining in England. Why should that be? An Englishman asking that question in America, is generally answer to this effect:—

We are prospering because, unlike you, we are no longer manufacturing at a loss. Since 1873 we have closed a larger proportion both of mills and foundries, and many of our mechanics have become farmers. Consequently less is made, but what is made sells well.

While Great Britain persists in spinning more cotton and puddling more iron than her customers want, the price both of her cotton and her iron will continually fall. If the present stagnation of trade is indeed caused by over-production, entailing large stocks of unsaleable goods being left on the manufacturers' hands, it would seem as if the present policy of adding to those stocks must result in perpetuating that stagnation. Better to make little and sell at a profit than make much and sell at a loss.

English manufacturers and English workmen will do well to seek fresh employment for their capital. If they hold on, hoping against hope that, the era of bad trade once past, England will regain the monopoly of manufacturing for the world, they will be acting like the foolish ostrich who, burying her head in the sand, refuses to see what all around her can see.

We have long since said that we will not take her manufactures, and now Germany, France, and Russia seem to be saying the same thing. If England chooses to lend out her capital to foreign countries, as she did prior to 1873, the countries so favoured will no doubt be very glad to buy English iron with English gold. But, without the gold, the said foreign countries lack either the means or the inclination to buy the iron.

Foreign protection has deprived Great Britain of some of the Continental markets; American competition is beating her out of some of the neutral markets. Take Canada, for instance. In 1873 and 1877 the value of goods entered for consumption was, respectively, from—

	1873.	1877.
Great Britain	$68,522,776 ...	$39,572,239
United States.....	47,735,688 ...	51,332,669

In the one case a decrease of 28 millions, in the other an increase of four millions.

Unpatriotic Canadian ladies prefer American cotton to English shoddy, and Canadian lumbermen will not buy English axes, because they cannot chop. Nine out of every ten agricultural inventions are born in our workshops, and consequently nine out of every ten agricultural implements used in Canada are bought in the United States.

England is burdened both with a larger agricultural and a larger manufacturing population than she can well support. When the pastures of Dakota and the cornlands of Minesota are fairly opened up, her farmers will be worse off than her mechanics. With beef selling next summer in London at 6d. a lb. and wheat at 30s. a quarter, how will her farmers pay their rents? Like the mechanics, they will soon have to be seeking work elsewhere.

If the English trades' unions were practically managed and would place some of their starving members where they could earn a living, all classes would benefit. The artisans remaining in the workshops would benefit by the consequent rise in wages, while the employers would be compensated for that loss by the relief of the poor rates and the probable subsidence of bankrupt competition.

Such, Sir, are some of the American arguments; and if they be as sound as the American lands, every man out of work had better pack up his trunk and start at once for the Western States. In Minnesota, for instance, he will find a country, not exactly flowing with milk and honey, but rich beyond his most extravagant hopes.

In the vale of the Red River, though the soil is more fertile than in the Tropics, the air is more exhilarating than champagne. The rotation of crops is an art unknown. For upwards of 40 years crops of wheat averaging 20 to 25 bushels per acre have been gathered off the same fields. Manure is never used, for the natural soil is richer than manure. Nor does the land need clearing. No forests encumber that varied expanse of prairie and of lake. The settler may arrive in March, plough his land in April, and reap his harvest in July. The wheat is the highest priced in Chicago, and in two years' time, with ordinary good fortune, he should have replaced his original outlay.

Until this autumn, there being no cheap means of transport, much of the commoner kinds of grain was burnt where it grew. But a railway has now been opened throughout the whole length of the valley, and young farmers from Ontario and the Eastern States are pouring in by hundreds. Land is selling freely for less than a pound an acre, and while to every healthy labourer Minnesota offers good wages for hard work, to every farmer owning £300 or £400 she offers affluence if not fortune, and a certain future for his children. There, as elsewhere, the settler's life is not fitted for the weak or the sickly, but for the industrious and the robust it is a life full of promise.

In those life-giving Western States an energetic man may easily become in turn farmer, storekeeper, banker, or, if he will, senator. He grows with the people, and the growth of the people is almost miraculous. Ten years ago the population of Minneapolis might have been counted by hundreds; to-day it numbers upwards of 40,000. Within three years all the available land in the Red River valley will probably be settled on and sold. So if any man thinks of going he had best delay no longer. Minnesota is no Castle of Indolence. Some hardships every emigrant must expect to undergo. His labour for the first two years will probably be more severe than in England. But, his ties to home once severed, he will never regret his choice. He will have exchanged despondency for hope, he will be working not only for bare life, but for prosperity in the future, and with hope of the future those troubles which might otherwise have seemed unendurable will appear to him as trifles unworthy of complaint.

Law Reports.

H.M.'s SUPREME COURT.

Shanghai, 21st April.

Before G. French, Esq., *Chief Justice.*

Messrs. Piatkoff, Molchanoff & Co. *v.* James Simpson.

Mr. Dowdall, in the absence of Mr. N. J. Hannen, appeared for the plaintiffs.

Mr. Myburgh and Mr. Wainewright appeared for the defendant.

Plaintiffs are merchants, carrying on business at Hankow, and defendant is a partner in the firm of Messrs. S. C. Farnham and Co., of the Old Dock, Shanghai. The action was brought to recover Tls. 10,000, damages sustained by the plaintiffs owing to defects in a boiler constructed and erected by the defendant's firm.

Mr. Dowdall, at the outset, pointed out that an arrangement had been come to for an adjournment to take place at the end of the plaintiffs' case, as it was understood his Lordship would not be in Shanghai sufficiently long to hear the case through—at the end of the plaintiffs' case, therefore, defendant's case would stand over until a convenient opportunity came for it to be heard. He then read the petition filed by the plaintiffs, which was as follows:—

1.—The plaintiffs are merchants, carrying on business at Hankow, in the Empire of China, and the defendant is a British subject, carrying on business at Shanghai in partnership with Sylvanus Cobb Farnham, Clement Phinney Blethen, Clark Blethen, and Frederick William Galles (none of whom are British subjects), as builders, engineers, shipwrights, and machinists, under the style or firm of S. C. Farnham & Co.

2.—In the month of October, 1877, the plaintiffs, through their agents Messrs. Ponomareff & Co., contracted to buy, and the said firm of S. C. Farnham & Co. contracted to supply to the plaintiffs certain machinery and apparatus for the purpose of preparing Brick Tea at Hankow aforesaid, such machinery and apparatus consisting of a tubular boiler with fittings thereto, and the said firm of S. C. Farnham & Co. guaranteed that the said boiler should work with perfect safety at a pressure of 80lbs. per square inch, and should answer the purpose for which it was intended, and supply steam for four sets of steaming chests, each set containing six compartments.

3.—The plaintiffs, relying upon the intention and ability of the said Messrs. S. C. Farnham & Co. to carry out the said contract, paid to

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them, in accordance with the terms of the said contract, a sum of one thousand three hundred Taels, and also laid out money in transporting the said boiler to Hankow aforesaid, and in building brickwork for the reception of the same, and engaged workmen and otherwise expended money and incurred liability in connection with the said contract.

4.—The said boiler and its fittings were delivered to the plaintiffs by the said firm of S. C. Farnham & Co. in July last, and were erected and fitted by or under the superintendence of the said firm or its servants, but on the said boiler and fittings being tried shortly after they were so erected and fitted, they were found to be very defective and quite incapable of performing the work for which they were intended, and although the said boiler was never worked by the plaintiffs or their servants at a pressure of 80lbs. per square inch, it became unsafe when it had been in use for about four weeks, and on or about the twentieth day of September last, a crack of some four inches long was found in the said boiler which thereupon became entirely useless to the plaintiffs, and the plaintiffs have given notice to the said firm that the said boiler and fittings are at the disposal of the said firm.

5.—In consequence of the break down of the said boiler, it became necessary for the plaintiffs to erect at great expense other machinery and apparatus of a temporary character to endeavour to carry out the work intended to be done by the said boiler and the machinery connected with it, which said other machinery and apparatus will be useless to the plaintiffs when a boiler in accordance with the said contract has been obtained.

5a.—By reason of the failure of the said firm of S. C. Farnham & Co. to perform their said contract, the plaintiffs have been put to extra expense in the transport of 6,000 packages of Teas to their destination, which is the loss of Tls. 5,856.75 in the particulars attached to their petition mentioned.

6.—By reason of the failure of the said firm of S. C. Farnham & Co. to perform their said contract, the plaintiffs in addition to the useless expenditure to which they have been put as mentioned in the 3rd and 5th paragraphs of this petition, will be put to further expenses, and they have already suffered and will suffer damage from loss of business and otherwise, and they estimate the damages which they have sustained and will sustain at the sum of Tls. 10,000.

The plaintiffs therefore pray :—

1.—That the defendant may be ordered to pay to the plaintiffs the said sum of Tls. 10,000, or such other sum as to this Court may seem just, together with the costs of this suit.

2.—That the plaintiffs may have such other or further relief as the nature of the case may require.

In reply to the above petition, defendant filed the following answer :—

1.—The defendant admits the allegations contained in the 1st paragraph of the petition, except that he says that Sylvanus Cobb Farnham, therein referred to, is not a partner in the firm of S. C. Farnham & Co.

2.—In answer to 2nd paragraph of the said petition, the defendant says that the said firm of S. C. Farnham & Co. contracted to supply Messrs. Ponomareff & Co. with two boilers and connections according to a specification dated the 26th day of October, 1877, and he denies that the said Messrs. Ponomareff & Co. were acting as agents for the plaintiffs or that the said firm of S. C. Farnham & Co. contracted with the said plaintiffs or guaranteed the said boilers or either of them as stated in the 2nd paragraph of the said petition, and save as herein appears he denies the allegations contained in the said 2nd paragraph.

3.—The defendant denies the allegations contained in the 3rd paragraph of the said petition, but says that Messrs. S. C. Farnham & Co. received from the Messrs. Ponomareff & Co. the price agreed to be paid for the said machinery and connections according to the terms of their contract with them.

4.—Save as herein appears the defendant denies the allegations contained in the 4th paragraph of the said petition and says that the said two boilers after having been duly tested were together with their connections delivered to Messrs. Ponomareff & Co. in July last, and were erected and fitted by or under the superintendence of one of the servants of the said Messrs. S. C. Farnham & Co., and found to be in accordance with the terms of the said specification, and Messrs. Ponomareff & Co. accepted them as such. And the defendant further says that the crack subsequently found in one of the said boilers as mentioned in the petition, and all other defects (if any) were caused by the negligence and unskilfulness of those in charge of the said boiler, and is in no way attributable to any neglect or default of himself or his said firm.

5.—The defendant denies the allegations contained in the 5th and 6th paragraphs of the petition, and says that Messrs. S. C. Farnham & Co. have duly performed their contract with Messrs. Ponomareff & Co., and that he is not in any way responsible to the plaintiffs.

Mr. DOWDALL said the case was simply one for damages for defects in a new boiler bought by Messrs. Piatkoff, Molchanoff and Co., of Hankow, through Messrs. Ponomareff and Co., from the defendant's firm. There were allegations in the petition that the boiler was incapable to perform the work it was intended to perform and contracted to perform, but inasmuch as it was received by the plaintiffs and paid for by them, he had advised them not to go on that point, but to rest on the allegation that the boiler was defective without any fault on their (the plaintiffs') part. He then explained, at length, that the defendant was the only partner in the firm of Messrs. Farnham and Co., who was a British subject, and said he was prepared to substantiate by authorities that he could be sued alone without his co-partners.

Mr. MYBURGH said he did not intend to raise that point. A similar case had been before this Court, and therefore they had a precedent to follow.

Mr. DOWDALL then narrated the circumstances as to how the boiler was obtained from the defendant's firm for the plaintiffs, through Messrs. Ponomareff and Co., and explained that after it had been worked about four weeks with great care and attention, and without it being subjected to any great pressure of steam, a crack in it was discovered in the crown of the furnace, and the water leaked through. It was found the boiler could not be worked, and defendant's firm, when communicated with, offered to put a patch over the cracked place. Plaintiffs declined to agree to this but offered to keep the boiler if the defendant's firm would put in a new plate and have the boiler properly tested. They were not satisfied that it might not prove defective in some of the other plates and go off in a similar away with worse results if it were not properly tested. This was not done, and the boiler from the time the crack was discovered had been useless, and plaintiffs sought to recover the amount they had paid for it, as well as damages for the disturbance in their business. By arrangement it had been decided that if the liability of the defendant was proved, the damages with his Lordship's consent should be assessed afterwards before the Assistant Judge or some other qualified person.

His LORDSHIP agreed to this arrangement.

Mr. DOWDALL then called his witnesses.

JACOB MATVEREFF MOLCHANOFF, through Mr. Reding, the Russian Vice-Consul, who acted as interpreter, deposed—I am one of the plaintiffs in this case, and am a merchant, carrying on business in Hankow. I have a partner of the name of Mr. Piatkoff, who is the other plaintiff to this suit. We are tea merchants at Hankow, and also carry on the same business at Foochow. Mr. Piatkoff is at present in Europe. In the autumn of 1877, Mr. Piatkoff had communications with the firm of Messrs. Ponomareff and Co. as to obtaining a boiler from the defendants. Ultimately we ordered a boiler from the defendant's firm, through Mr. Ponomareff. Messrs. Ponomareff and Co. were our agents in the matter. We employed them because we had no one in our firm who could speak English, and because Mr. Ponomareff at the same time also wanted a boiler and the whole transaction was therefore carried through by them. Mr. Carmichael came up to Hankow about the boiler we wanted. He is an engineer in the employ of the defendant's firm. I was in Hankow at the time. Mr. Carmichael, when he arrived at Hankow, first had an interview with Mr. Ponomareff, and subsequently Mr. Ponomareff, and Mr. Carmichael, Mr. Hummel, and myself, had an interview about the boiler. I explained fully what I wanted it to do, and Mr. Carmichael then said he would make me a boiler answering my purposes. Mr. Carmichael was at Hankow three or four days, and saw a specimen of the coals that were to be used in heating the boiler. A specification was made out for the boiler, in accordance with the arrangement we come to. (The specification, which was dated 26th October, 1877, was put in and admitted by the defendant's counsel.) Under that specification a boiler from the defendant's firm came to Hankow, and foundations for it were built by Chinese under my superintendence, and the boiler was fitted on it under the superintendence of Mr. Ritchie, another engineer, sent to Hankow, by the defendant's firm. The entire superstructure or brick work at the top of the foundation was built under Mr. Ritchie's superintendence. Mr. Ritchie left Hankow before the boiler was tested. It was not ready to be tested because some tubes connecting the boiler with the steam chests had not been fixed. We asked Messrs. Farnham and Co. to send a Chinaman to Hankow to look after the boiler. They sent one man, and he brought another man with him. I and the Chinaman from Farnham and Co. got up steam in the boiler. I was merely looking on to see that everything was in order. I saw the boiler several times a day, and it did not work satisfactorily. The pressure of steam was generally about 40 lbs., but sometimes it was more than that. I have seen it as high as 50 lbs., but it was only for a few minutes. I have not seen it over 50 lbs. I gave orders for the steam to be got higher than 50, but they never succeeded in doing so. The boiler was paid for by us through Messrs. Ponomareff and Co. The reason we paid for the boiler, when it was not working satisfactorily, was because Mr. Carmichael said after a little usuage and the brick work became dry it would answer the purpose for which it was intended and give satisfaction. The boiler was worked about a month, when a crack in it was discovered. The Chinaman superintending the boiler found the crack, and told me about it. I went to look at it. On my arrival at the place the men were drawing the fire out of the furnace, and the steam was being blown off. I saw the crack in the boiler, and the water was leaking out. The crack was just over the fire place. I looked at the water gauge and found there was enough water in the boiler. I had never noticed an insufficiency of water in the boiler at any time. My object in going to see the boiler several times a day, as I have mentioned, was to see that everything was in order. The native engineer who attended to the boiler, seemed to be a good man. He appeared to be quite competent to to be charge and was very careful. I saw the boiler about a quarter of an hour before I was told of the crack. I then noticed the pressure of steam, and I think it was about 37 or 38-lbs. The boiler was then supplying two steam chests for steaming tea. It had been doing this about a week. Before this it had only supplied one chest with steam. Originally the water for supplying the boiler came from the river Yangtsze. A large reservoir was first filled by coolies, thence it passed to a filter, afterwards to a second filter, then into an iron tank, and from this iron tank it was pumped into the boiler.

The COURT then adjourned.

On resuming in the afternoon, Mr. DOWDALL read the specifications under which the boiler was constructed. The boiler was to be sixteen feet long, and four feet six inches in diameter. It was to be tested with hydraulic pressure to 120-lbs. per square inch and was to work with perfect safety at 80-lbs. of steam, and to have capacity enough to supply four sets of steam chests, each having six compartments.

The examination of Mr. MOLCHANOFF was then continued—He said the water filters were made of wood, and in each filter were placed several layers of small stones, and several layers of charcoal. There was also a quantity of bamboo fibre similar to coir matting, through which the water had to pass. The iron tank was a square cistern made by Messrs. Farnham and Co. It was covered, but there was a round hole in the top. It was impossible for water to pass into the boiler without passing through the filters and tank. It was pumped from the tank into the boilers, and

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the tank was supplied from the filters. I have noticed the water in the tanks. I often looked at it, and it appeared to be as clean as that we were drinking. We used to put tallow into the boiler and some stuff to prevent encrustation. I got this stuff from Mr. Ponomareff, and he got it from London. I do not know whether anyone from Messrs. Farnham and Co. advised it to be used, but it was recommended to Mr. Ponomareff by several engineers. When the crack in the boiler was discovered, work was discontinued. I took advice as to the propriety of working the boiler in its cracked state. I took the advice of Mr. Watson, civil engineer, and also that of the Chinese engineer. The boiler was cleaned every eight or nine days. To clean it the work had to be stopped for about twenty-four hours. I saw the boiler cleaned on each occasion myself. It was cleaned three or four days before the crack in it was discovered. After the crack was found the water was not drawn off at once. It was drawn off a day or two afterwards, and it was then warm. An engineer named Roberts, Mr. Ponomareff, and several Chinese were present. The boiler was not opened until Mr. Roberts and Mr. Ponomareff came. I was present when it was opened. I looked inside the boiler, but could see nothing of the cracked plate. I saw the inside of the boiler was clean. The boiler remained open about three months. A building has been erected five feet from the boiler. It is not yet completed. The roof of the building, which was made of thin wooden boards, caught fire, and the supports of the roof were pulled down, causing the roof itself to fall. I was present at the fire. The boiler was working at the time. After the fire was over, I went and examined the boiler, and found that there was plenty of water in it. While the fire was raging, the donkey-pump was working, pumping water into the boiler. The fire in the roof lasted about an hour. It did no damage to the boiler. After the crack in the boiler was found, we communicated with Messrs. Farnham and Co., by letter dated 23rd September, 1878, (letter admitted) and Messrs. Farnham and Co. offered to patch the boiler. I would not agree to this, and wanted a new plate substituted for the cracked one, and that the boiler should be tested by hydraulic pressure. (The correspondence which passed between the parties was here read and made exhibits in the case.)

Cross-examined by Mr. Wainewright—There is no joint interest or business connection between our firm and that of Messrs. Ponomareff & Co. Mr. Piatkoff went to Europe in November last. Mr. Hummel is still in the employ of Messrs. Ponomareff and Co. Mr. Carmichael knew what sort of coal was to be used for heating the boiler, because it was shown to him, and we had a conversation about it, and he was asked to do something to try to reduce the quantity of smoke. The coal was that usually used in Hankow, and was the same as that which comes down the river. There was coal lying about, and that was how Mr. Carmichael saw it. He also saw the coal in the furnace, and he contracted to make a boiler to be heated by the same kind of coal. Mr. Ritchie left Hankow before the boiler was tested. This was because some tubes had not been put up between the boiler and the steam chests. These tubes were not to be supplied by Messrs. Farnham and Co., but by the plaintiffs' themselves. Mr. Ritchie remained in Hankow about a month. It was not part of the contract for Messrs. Farnham and Co. to provide an engineer to work the boiler; they were only asked to recommend one to the plaintiffs' through Messrs. Ponomareff and Co. Mr. Ritchie got up steam before he left Hankow. Two or three days after he left, the connecting tubes were ready. We first put one of the chests in order and worked it, and then put a second one in order. We never tried to work three. When Mr. Carmichael was in Hankow, I do not know whether he saw the chests working or not. The boiler was worked constantly day and night. Besides the Chinaman sent to Hankow by Messrs. Farnham and Co., one of our clerks, a Russian named Nemchinoff, also took part in superintending the working of the boiler. The Chinaman sent by Messrs. Farnham and Co. was the headman, and he worked for twelve hours—from noon to midnight. The other Chinaman he brought with him from Shanghai worked from midnight to noon. During meals the work was stopped. For the working of one steam chest, the consumption of coal was approximately two tons daily, and when two chests were working the consumption of coal was four tons daily. Mr. Nemchinoff, the clerk I have referred to, had charge of the steaming operations and the work generally. He had no fixed hours. He went to the place at irregular hours between eight o'clock in the morning and twelve at night. He has a little knowledge of machinery, but is not professionally trained. He is an amateur and takes great interest in the work. Having myself had occasion to use boilers, I have taken great interest in their working and obtained knowledge wherever I could. When I went to look at the boiler, I looked at the steam and water gauges and used the blow-off pipe to clear away any sediment there might be at the bottom of the boiler. This was done generally twice in twenty-four hours. I was not always present. I live about three minutes' walk from the boiler. I used to go to the boiler at irregular hours, having, of course, other business to attend to. The first filter is about four hundred feet from the river. There is a hole in the iron tank through which water could have been poured by coolies, without it being filtered. There are several wells on the premises. There is one about 150 feet from the iron tank. That was the nearest one. I inspected the filters from three to ten times a day. I have taken a glass of water out of the tank and looked at it, but I have not drank any of it. The boiler was cleaned in all three times. Twice we sent a boy inside to scrape it, and once it was cleaned by scraping it from the outside. I was there for about half an hour while it was being cleaned on each occasion. The boy who was sent inside to clean it used a scraper and a small hammer to hammer the plates to remove any encrustation there might be. On the occasion when the boiler was cleaned from the outside, an iron scraper on a wooden handle was used, and it was about half the length of the boiler. This was used the first time the boiler was cleaned, and on the second and third occasions the boy was sent inside. The head Chinaman and I superintended the work. The boy was a coolie boy from the interior. He scraped off some crust or scale of a dark brown colour. It was hard stuff of about the thickness of three sheets of paper. I cannot recognise the powder now produced as being like it. It is something like it, but I don't understand the red stuff mixed with it. The fire on the roof I have referred to occurred about two weeks before the crack in the boiler appeared. The donkey pump was worked from the boiler. After the crack was discovered and I examined it with Mr. Ponomareff, we first looked below and saw the crack; then we looked inside the boiler but could not see the crack. I did not put my head inside. I know Mr. Colgan, the chief engineer of the steamer *Shanghai*. I remember having some conversation with him about the crack in the boiler. This was about three months after the crack was first discovered, and Mr. Colgan came to examine the boiler. Mr. Colgan told me that one way to test whether the plate was a good and sound one, was to drill holes through it near the crack, which would show whether it was laminated or not. Some Chinese were present. I don't know whether Mr. Colgan spoke to them or not. I remember Mr. Colgan drawing my attention to some sediment at the bottom of the boiler, and he asked me to feel it with my hand.

Re-examined by Mr. Drummond—When the boy was cleaning the inside of the boiler, the head Chinaman directed him what to do, and after the boy had finished, the Chinaman swept up what had been scraped off. There was a a little encrustation upon the cracked plate after the water was drawn off, but it was not like the powder produced. When Mr. Colgan proposed to me to drill holes through the plate, I told him I would do so if I obtained permission from Messrs. Farnham and Co., as I took it that the boiler belonged to them and not to my firm. Since then Mr. Colgan has been several times backwards and forwards from Hankow to Shanghai.

At a quarter past five o'clock, the hearing was adjourned until ten o'clock next morning.

22nd April.

This case was resumed this morning.

Thomas Roberts, marine engineer, residing at Shanghai, deposed that he is chief engineer of the steamer *Peking* and holds a first-class certificate of competency. He served a five years' apprenticeship in his father's shop, then went out as an improver in a large engineering and shipbuilding firm, afterwards went back and superintended his father's workshop for three years, and went to sea in 1865 as third engineer. He had been chief engineer for ten years. In September last year he was chief engineer of the steamer *Tunsin*. On the 23rd of that month he was at Hankow and received a note asking him to examine the boiler on the plaintiffs' premises. He went and saw the boiler, and found the fire had been drawn. He looked at the gauge glass, and found from three and a half to four inches of water in it, which indicated there was that quantity of water above the heating surface, showing that the boiler had been worked with perfect safety so far as the quantity of water in it was concerned. The water in the boiler was a little warmer then the outside of the boiler. Work apparently had been discontinued about four or five hours. Mr. Molchanoff and a Chinaman were in charge of the boiler. He noticed a crack in one of the plates at the crown of the furnace, and water was oozing through it. The crack was two feet eleven inches from the end of the boiler, and fifteen inches from the inner end of the plate. It was in a line with the bottom of the boiler, towards the outer end of the furnace. The crack was 3¼ inches long in the grain of the iron. There was no deflection of the plate at that time. He again examined the crack in March last. He then placed a two-feet steel straightedge on the plate, and found that where the plate had separated, the ends drooped as if they had sprung a little. The plate appeared to be $\frac{7}{16}$ of an inch thick. This was the measurement at the outer edge. If he had been asked to measure the thickness of the plate he should have drilled it, which was the best way to obtain a correct measurement of its thickness. The deflection of the plate was a full sixteenth of an inch. At the first examination the plate was perfectly sound with the exception of the crack. There were no signs of burn upon it. He did not think it could have been burned without showing signs. If it had been burnt the plate would have been discoloured, and he should have expected it to have bulged out more. The discolouration of a plate from burning could not be removed unless the plate was heated in a furnace. The boiler, when he made his first examination, was full of water. He opened the blow-off cock and let the water run off. He then took off the door of the cleansing hole. There was about an inch and a half of water in the boiler. It was of a dark brown colour. He asked Mr. Molchanoff the cause of the discolouration of the water, and that gentleman informed him that he had been using some anti-corrosive powder to keep the boiler clean. He had tried the Anti-Lithon composition now produced in Court in water and it produced a similar discolouration. There was no mud in the water in the boiler, but there were a few pieces of solid substances which Mr. Molchanoff represented as the composition he had used. In his presence all the water in the boiler was drawn off, and there was no scale or deposit on the cracked plate. The boiler, as far as he could see, was clean. He had never found the Hankow river water to scale the boilers on steamers, and no doubt it would be better filtered. The river water was used in the boilers on the steamers, and generally the boilers were cleaned every six weeks or two months. If the water in this particular boiler had been allowed to get too low, the tubes would have first been damaged, but the tubes were not damaged and were in good order. If the fires were forced there would be the greatest amount of heat where the crack took place, but it was very unlikely for a plate to fail from heat when there was good water space, and there would be more than a foot of water over the plate. He had seen the coal that was used, and he thought it was impossible to burn the boiler with it if the boiler contained water. He had seen the Chinaman who was in charge of the boiler, and he seemed well acquainted with all he had to do. He advised Mr. Molchanoff to temporarily repair

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the boiler until he could get men from Shanghai to put a patch on it, which would occupy three weeks or a month. A patch would last for two years, when it would probably want re-rivetting which would take about two days. A boiler of this kind should last ten or twelve years, if it had proper usage and care. He thought the boiler could be patched as well by Chinese as foreigners, but it would be prudent for the boiler to be periodically inspected by foreigners, whether patched or not patched. For all practical purposes a boiler with a patch was as good as a boiler without a patch, but commercially it was deteriorated, for a patched boiler would not sell so well in the market as an unpatched one. If the temporary repairs he recommended had been done, he should have worked the boiler without testing it, considering the time this boiler had been at work.

The COURT then adjourned.

On resuming in the afternoon, the examination of Mr. ROBERTS was continued, and, in answer to Mr. Dowdall, he said he attributed the crack in the boiler to a defect in the manufacture of the iron.

Cross-examined by Mr. WAINEWRIGHT—When he examined the boiler on the first occasion it was pretty hot, not too hot, however, for a lamp to burn inside of it. His theory was that the edges of the crack in cooling curled out a little. He did not think a sheet of paper could be inserted through the crack when he first saw it. The action of cooling the metal would not enlarge the width of the crack. It would make very little difference in its size. He perceived no difference in the width of the crack on his second visit. On his first examination he tested the boiler with a hammer on the outside shell inside the furnace, and he found no signs of lamination of the metal, which seemed to be perfectly sound. Mr. Molchanoff did not tell him that he had been putting tallow in the boiler. Tallow, when so used, always left a small deposit, but he saw no indications of it in this instance. He had never seen a crack like this before as the result of unsoundness of the metal. He had heard of the coming down of a furnace crown attributed to bad oil or tallow being put into the boiler, causing the metal to bulge. An eight of an inch of hard deposit on the boiler would be sufficient to cause it to burn and very probably to crack; and with even a less amount of deposit, if the door of the furnace was suddenly opened and the fire forced, it might produce a crack. There was no perceptible difference in the appearance of the plates at the bottom of the boiler inside the furnace, and he noticed no change in them on his second visit. Neither on the first nor second occasion did he observe any scale or deposit inside the boiler. The general appearance of the outside of the boiler was uniform; it was smooth and not spotted. If the crack had been the result of burning, he should have expected the plate to be discoloured and more deflected than it was. It would not require a very great amount of heat to crack a plate. A plate, originally defective, might last for a month, working constantly night and day, without betraying any signs of its defect. In his own experience he had known a laminated plate not to show its defect until after forty days constant steaming, and in this case the defect was not the result of burning. The river steamers used the water of the Yangtsze in their boilers, and he had no objection to make to it. Working a boiler night and day it should be cleaned every ten days or fortnight, and oftener if practicable. This boiler seemed to be a sound and well-made one. Patched boilers were not uncommon. The steamer *Peking* had a patch on her boilers. The *Tunsin* has new boilers, and as far as he knew there were no patches on the boilers of the *Hankow*. He knew nothing about the boilers of other steamers. This case had not been talked about a great deal among the engineers of the river steamers.

Re-examined by Mr. DOWDALL—A crack in one plate might be the only unsoundness in a whole boiler. It was not usual for a crack to appear in a new boiler with a month's working. The new boilers in the *Tunsin* had been working since July last, and they had not cracked.

SUN A-CHUCK deposed that he is an engineer and fitter. He served three years apprenticeship, and had been seven years in the business. He is now in the employment of the plaintiffs, to whom he was recommended by Messrs. Farnham and Co.'s foreman. It was his duty to attend to the boiler supplied by Messrs. Farnham and Co., and it had been working 25 or 26 days when he found the crack in it. He discovered the crack by the water leaking through into the furnace. At the time there was from 38 to 40 lbs. pressure of steam, and for an hour previous the fire was an ordinary one. As soon as he discovered the crack he drew the fire, and then went and told his master. The usual quantity of water, as indicated by the gauge, was in the boiler, and it was taken out the following day, in the presence of Mr. Molchanoff, Mr. Roberts and Mr. Ponomareff. He then confirmed the evidence of Mr. Molchanoff, as to how the boiler was supplied with water, and said that no water was used that had not passed through the filters. He then went on to say that 50 lbs. of steam was the highest pressure ever obtained on the boiler, and the usual pressure was 38 and 40 lbs. The engineer, who fitted the boiler, instructed him to clean the boiler ever eight or ten days, and to use the blow-off cock twice a day, and he acted in accordance with those instructions. The same engineer also ordered him to put some grease into the water, when the boiler water was refilled after being cleaned. He always filled the boiler after being cleaned before lighting the fire, and always drew the fire before letting off the water. He gave confirmatory testimony as to the way in which the boiler was cleaned, and also as to its condition both externally and internally after the crack was discovered. He admitted that there was a little sediment at the bottom of the boiler when the water was finally drawn off, but it was not sufficient to cause the boiler to burn or the plate to crack. It was his opinion that the plate cracked because it was not thick and strong enough. The quality of the iron, he thought, was not very good.

Cross-examined by Mr. MYBURGH—On each occasion forty pounds of tallow and four pounds of Lithon composition were put into the water when the boiler was cleaned. These quantities of tallow and composition were put in on the occasion when the boiler was cleaned three days before the crack was discovered. Forty pounds of tallow were used by the instruction of the engineer who fitted the boiler, and four pounds of the composition were used by the instructions of Mr. Molchanoff. He was not on duty when he discovered the crack, but he happened to be there. The other Chinaman did not call him. Two steam chests were working at the time. 40 lbs. of steam were required to work one chest, and to work two properly they wanted 50 lbs. of pressure but could not get it. Two tons of coal were used every twenty-four hours. After the crack was discovered, and the water was drawn off, there remained about three-quarters of an inch of water in the bottom of the boiler. This water was not very dirty. There was some sediment, something like the powder produced, but it was not quite so black. He remembered Mr. Macgregor, late chief engineer of the *Pekin*, examining the boiler, and saw him take something out of it. It was like the parcel of powder now produced. Mr. Macgregor used a chisel to scrape off the stuff he took away.

Re-examined by Mr. DOWDALL—They had been working two chests some days before the crack appeared, and they had tried for seven or eight days to obtain 50 lbs. of pressure but could not.

FONG A-FUN, fireman, in the service of the plaintiffs, said that no water except that taken from the Yangtsze and had passed through the filters was used in the boiler. *There was no interference with the boiler in* any way from the time the crack was discovered until it was examined by Mr. Roberts.

Cross-examined by Mr. MYBURGH—Since Mr. Robert's first examination the boiler had been closed so that no dirt could get inside. He confirmed the statement of the last witness as to Mr. Macgregor inspecting the boiler and taking some of the sediment away.

Mr. DOWDALL said there was still the evidence of four witnesses taken *de bene esse* to be read over and another witness to examine before he closed the case on behalf of the plaintiffs.

Mr. MYBURGH thought if the plaintiffs' case was to be kept open, they might as well adjourn now until after his Lordship returned from Foochow.

His LORDSHIP said that would suit him very well.

Mr. DOWDALL also acquiesced.

The hearing was accordingly adjourned until his Lordship should have a convenient opportunity for resuming it after his return from Foochow.

POLICE COURT.

Shanghai, 26th April.

Before H. S. WILKINSON, Esq.

R. *v.* ROBERT DYE.

Absent without leave.

Prisoner is an able seaman on board the steamer *Gleneagles*, and he was charged with being absent without leave.

He came ashore without leave, and when he returned to go on board he found the steamer had left.

Mr. SPENCE, H.M.'s Registrar of Shipping, said the steamer had gone to Yokohama, thence she was expected to call at Kobe and Nagasaki, and from there, he understood, she was going to Foochow direct. He could send the prisoner to Foochow, if his Worship approved of that course being adopted, but it would be eight or ten days before he could do so.

His WORSHIP sent the prisoner to gaol for one week, and it was understood that he would be sent to Foochow to rejoin his ship there.

MIXED COURT.

Shanghai, 18th April.

Before the Chinese Magistrate CHEN, and C. F. R. ALLEN, Esq., *British Assessor.*

After the usual cases were disposed of, five Cantonese women were brought up by the Police, charged with refusing compliance with a certain Municipal Regulation. Several ratepayers were present. Chên did not give a definite decision as regards their offence, but ordered them to close their houses. Subsequently, a gentleman who took an interest in the case, obtained from Chên the opinion of Dr. Macgowan, the American Assessor, on the case, which is as follows:—

(Copy.)

Mixed Court, Shanghai.

To His Honour CHEN,
Chinese Magistrate to the Mixed Court,
Shanghai.

SIR,—In accordance with the desire of yourself, several Landrenters and Chinese renters, and with the approval of Vice-Consul Allen, British Assessor of this Court, I submit for your consideration my views on the disposition of the charge brought by the Police against Chinese women for refusing compliance with a certain Municipal Regulation. I hold that the accused ought to be discharged. That the ordinance to which they refuse submission is beneficent in design cannot be disputed, so neither can its inutility be questioned. If, however, the measure could be rendered effective in lessening disease, which is doubtful, and if it could be enforced without giving rise to grave abuses, *which is impossible*, it would be a mere question of hygiene, which being subordinate to the public weal is a matter of secondary importance.

Let it be admitted that the Regulation can be made to accomplish all the physical good that is claimed for it. Yet, being one that cannot be enforced, save at a cost which foreign interests in China can ill-afford to sustain, placing them all in jeopardy, the measure must be deemed ill advised and impolitic in the extreme. That, however, is a question of legislation which hardly concerns this Court. If the Regulation in question is not contrary to the quasi constitution under which we live; if it does not contravene fundamental principles which are of higher authority than that constitution, then, indubitably, it would be incumbent on us to enforce it, however obnoxious it might appear to those on whom it bore; but it is a partial and unequal law, selecting for its operation only one race in this heterogeneous community, and it is therefore,

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ipso facto, unconstitutional, and should be declared null and void in this Court. Inasmuch as its operation is restricted to a class which, however large, represents but one side, and that the weak side of the case, and which is *quoad hoc* not chargeable with any crime, those women should suffer no further molestation. If in this, my closing official act, my views should be happily sustained, it will of course be open to the Honourable Municipal Council to appeal to the Consular Body, which, with the Taotai, can bring to its consideration more knowledge than we possess. I am unaware of the opinion of any member of that body, or of the Taotai, on the subject, having simply given expression to my own views on the question.

Most respectfully,

(Signed) D. J. Macgowan,
U. S. Assessor.

26th April.

Before the Chinese Magistrate Chen, and P. G. von Mollendorf, Esq., *German Assessor.*

Wholesale Robberies by Cargo-boat Men.

Three cases of robbery by cargo-boat men were investigated to-day. In the first case two prisoners, employed by foreigners, were charged with stealing 115 pieces of Pongee silk of the value of Tls. 300. In December last the silk was shipped from Shanghai, and on arriving at its destination several bales were found to contain a less number of Pongees than was expected. Information was sent back to Shanghai, and on enquiries being made it was discovered that out of a shipment of 36 bales, 23 bales had been opened and five pieces of silk extracted from each. The theft was found to have taken place while the silk was being taken on board the vessel in the boat in which the two prisoners and three other men, who are still at large, were employed. The missing silk was traced to the shop of a well-known receiver of stolen property, who was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment about twelve months' ago. After serving three months' of his sentence, he was liberated on account of sickness, and has now escaped to Ningpo. Prisoners admitted their guilt, and also implicated the other three men who are not in custody. They were each ordered to receive 200 blows, and to be remanded in custody for a month to afford the police an opportunity of capturing the other three men. If these men are not captured during the month, at the expiration of that time the prisoners are to be brought up to receive sentence.

The same foreign firm, who were prosecutors in the last case, next preferred a similar charge against another cargo-boat man in their employ. In this case it was proved that prisoner, in December last, stole 25 pieces of Pongee silk from bales in his charge, and sold them at a shop in the city. This shop has now closed, so there is no chance of recovering any of the stolen property. Prisoner admitted the offence, and was ordered to receive 200 blows, and to be brought up for sentence with the two prisoners in the last case.

Last week we reported the case in which six boatmen were brought before the Court by the Hongkew Police, on the charge of stealing 13 pieces of satin, of the value of $182, from bales placed in their charge to convey to a steamer bound North. Prisoners were then remanded until to-day to give the police an opportunity to trace the stolen property, and it is satisfactory to find that they succeeded in doing so. The 13 pieces of satin had been disposed of at different shops for $86, and all were recovered by the police. Three of the prisoners were sentenced to receive 200 blows, and to be afterwards imprisoned for six months; the prisoner who had pawned the goods was commited to gaol for three months, and the others were remanded with the view to the arrest of two other men who are supposed to be implicated in the robbery.

Theft of a Sable Robe.

A native cook, in the employ of a foreigner in Hongkew, was charged, on remand, with stealing a sable robe of the value of Tls. 200, the property of his master. Some months ago he stole the robe and pawned it in the city, and with great difficulty it was recovered by the police. He was then brought before the Court and admitted the theft, but before sentence was passed he was liberated on account of having some sick friends to attend to. He was now sentenced to three months' imprisonment. Bumping his head on the floor, he pleaded to be allowed to serve his sentence in the Chinese gaol, which was objected to. He then carried his demonstrations to extremes, beating his head violently on the ground, raising a cloud of dust, and crying piteously. His entreaties were of no avail, and three of the runners seized him by the queue and literally dragged him from the Court.

THE WRECK OF THE "BENCLUTHA."

Finding of the Naval Court.

At a Naval Court assembled at Her Britannic Majesty's Consulate at Chefoo this eleventh day of March, 1879, by order of Charles Edward Dring Wilcox, Esquire, Commander of Her Majesty's Ship *Growler* and Senior Naval Officer present, dated the seventh day of March, 1879, for the purpose of investigating into the circumstances connected with the wreck of the British barque *Benclutha*.

This Court having deliberately weighed and considered the statement made by Mr. James Mirrilees, late master of the said barque, as well as the evidence (upon oath) given by the several witnesses called, is of opinion that considering the nature of the circumstances, viz.:—That in passing Cape Cod with a fair wind and no indication of barometer or otherwise of approaching bad weather, he was justified in standing on and endeavouring to get into port; that between Cape Cod and Chefoo a northerly gale suddenly sprung up giving him a lee shore, and he was unable to stand to eastward so as to weather Cape Cod, or towards Chefoo with any hopes of fetching it owing to the state of the wind; that the ship was perfectly unmanagable owing to the frozen state of his rigging, and that the crew from intense cold were disabled from working the ship efficiently—the barque *Benclutha* was therefore unavoidably driven on shore. The Court accordingly considers Mr. James Mirrilees free from all blame, and he is hereby acquitted.

The Court also expresses its satisfaction at the way in which he saved all the crew, and throughout all the trying circumstances behaving in a most seamanlike manner.

Given under our hands at the British Consulate at Chefoo, this eleventh day of March, 1879.

(Signed) James McFarlane,
" Rev. Hurst,
" T. W. Ferguson,
" A. C. Hewer,
" B. B. Savill,
Clerk of the Court.

Extracts.

A NATURAL MITRAILLEUSE.

A Paris contemporary makes the rather startling announcement that the mitrailleuse is far from being a modern invention, and that Noah, in his forty days' cruise, was provided with a pair of Gatlings. The mitrailleuse has, according to this journal, existed ever since the Creation in the person of a coleopterous insect (*Brachinus crepitans*, or the Bombardier Beetle), which has the power of discharging corrosive projectiles of the most deadly description. The Frenchman relates how he took a colonel to witness the operations of these insects, and the pair were fortunate enough to come in for a regular engagement, which is thus described:—A brick, lying in a strawberry bed, having been removed, a colony of Brachini was laid bare. Hardly had this been done than a powerful carnivorous beetle, encased in armour like a knight of the Middle Ages, made its appearance, and, with open jaws, rushed on a small female insect. Suddenly there was a ping! bang! and a cloud of smoke enveloped the Carabida, who was stunned by the discharge. Warned of their danger, the other Brachini hastened to take up a formidable position on the top of a mound, where a blockhouse and loop-holes were speedily improvised. Through these loop-holes the Brachini pointed their breechloaders, and, though turning their backs to the foe, prepared to give him a warm reception. The colonel, who felt quite at home in regarding this miniature field of battle, was enchanted. The Carabida, who appeared to have been irritated and rendered more voracious by his first check, dashed upon the enemy's position, but he was received by so well sustained an artillery fire that he fairly rolled over and bit the dust, and for a moment all seemed over. However, he rubbed his big eyes with his antennæ, and managed to pick himself together again. He appeared ashamed of his defeat, and determined to carry the work in front of him at no matter what cost. With great gallantry he mounted once more to the breach, where his eighteen enemies in a circle—heads in the centre and rear exposed—awaited the attack. He was met as before with a well directed fire, from the deadly effects of which his elytra and corselet were unable to protect him. The Carabida—fell this time to rise no more—half-paralysed, burned, and blinded. He was incapable of longer defending himself against his minute enemies, who now assumed the offensive, and set to work to devour the writhing Colossus.

INDIAN RELIEFS.

(Pall Mall Gazette.)

In the excitement of watching the despatch of the reinforcements to the Cape, and amid the admiring comments of the Press on the demonstration this spectacle has afforded of our maritime power, it seems to have been overlooked that a considerably larger reinforcement is sent to India every year without any fuss being made about it. The service is conducted so quietly and efficiently, through the medium of the splendid troopships of the Indian Government, that it goes on unnoticed. At the same time, it may be doubted whether the change from the old system of sending the Indian reliefs out in sailing vessels round the Cape is undiluted gain. The advantages derived from the change are indeed obvious. Under the old plan the troops had to embark in May or June, and did not reach India till November, or even later, each regiment requiring three or four ships to convey it; for although it was usual to style the Indiaman of those days a splendid vessel it was really no bigger than the small frigate of the great war, seldom exceeding thirteen or fourteen hundred tons. Then the detachments which landed first had to wait for the rest before starting for their final destination up-country; so that the arrival of the regiment was in effect determined by the rate of sailing of the greatest laggard in the fleet. The arrangements for the land journey were as different from those now in force as the transport service. Then, the regiment being all assembled at Dum-Dum, or some station near the port of disembarkation, proceeded to its destination on foot, marching from twelve to fifteen miles a day, and taking perhaps three or four months over the journey, or even longer. Thus a regiment destined for the Punjab, and leaving England in June, would not get there till the following April. Now the voyage is made under steam through the Red Sea in a month to Bombay; and from there the troops are immediately sent on by rail in detachments of about 200 strong at intervals of twenty-four hours. The journeys are made by night, the detachments halting each day at stations about 200 miles apart, where commodious permanent barracks have been erected, styled "rest-houses," at immense expense, where the soldiers find a commissariat staff and every necessary awaiting them. In this way the regiment is delivered at any part of India to the furthest limit of railway extension in about a week, so that it may be placed on the frontier in about five weeks from the time of embarkation. The change has therefore sensibly increased the number of British troops actually available. On the other hand, the old system of marching was excellent for the health of the soldiers, who usually arrived at their destination in the pink of condition, ready for anything; while the long familiarity with tent life was an invaluable training, for the soldiers themselves as well as for the numerous camp followers, who are as necessary as the combatants for an Indian army in the field. It is to be feared that with the introduction of railways the art of camp life may gradually be lost to India. But the principal drawback to the new system is in its effect on the troops returning home. The arrangements for the

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reliefs must be so timed that the new troops shall arrive in India at the beginning of the cold season; but, whereas under the old arrangement the men coming home used to embark early in the spring in the return ships, and reach England in the beginning of summer, the new system involves the necessity that the relieved troops shall embark in the autumn and reach England in mid-winter, the transports being usually required to make a second trip out to India in the same season. The sudden change from the climate of India to an English winter must always be trying to a body of men enervated by the former; and a regiment landing, as one did this season, in the height of the bitter weather can hardly fail to suffer. But if it is bad for the men, it is far worse for their wives and children. For the soldier himself warm clothing is at once supplied on his arrival; but the children are left to be clothed or left unclothed by their parents. We believe that the mortality among the children on arrival is from this cause extremely high; and, so long as soldiers are permitted to marry and to carry their families about with them, no class seems more deserving of consideration. The soldier's child while in India is admirably cared for by the Indian Government; but a good deal of this care will be rendered unavailing if it is brought straight from the tropics and set down in Portsmouth in January with little more on its body than a calico shift. One obvious improvement on this part of the system, if it were feasible, would be to detain the soldier's family returning from India at Malta or Gibraltar, and send them on to England in the summer.

Clippings.

A striking illustration of the value of the electric light at sea was given during the homeward voyage of the Telegraph steamer *Faraday*, from New York to London, last August. About 10.30 p.m., 18th July, in the vicinity of George's Bank, in a dense fog with a fresh westerly wind, suddenly was heard the sound of a bell ringing furiously but a short distance ahead. The steamer's engines were immediately stopped, and the Captain, supposing it to be a fisherman at anchor or almost stationary, ordered the wheel to be ported; at the same moment the electric light of the *Faraday* pierced the fog and plainly showed a ship crossing her bows, not a moment was to be lost, and only by the coolness and presence of mind of the Captain was a fearful calamity averted. The two vessels were within a few feet of each other; the lookout men said they could have stepped on the stranger's stern—she was full of passengers and the cries of women and children were heartrending. "Had I not been able," writes the Captain, "to see her so plainly, and the way she was going, we must have gone over her, or she might have struck us on the port bow. In either case the loss of life must have been great, and even now it seems terrible to contemplate."—*Popular Science Monthly, December*, 1878.

The Berlin *Tageblatt* gives some interesting details concerning the extraordinary number and nature of members of the brute creation which during the course of one single year have been transmitted from one spot to another in the German dominions by post. No fewer than 40,000 boxes containing one or more living animals passed through the hands of the postal administration during last year, and this figure (says our Berlin contemporary) does not include crabs, frogs, bees, and other smaller insects, which would swell the total to millions. The Post Office authorities are invested with the right of refusing such animals as may be deemed either dangerous or disagreeable, but that they rarely use this right is proved by the fact that within the last six months only thirty-nine packages of living animals were refused, amongst which figured an alligator, "done up in a box considered as too fragile;" a lot of dogs, "whose persistent barking could not be quieted;" and a number of pigeons loosely tied up in a sack. On the other hand, during the same six months, a crocodile, scores of birds of prey, monkeys, serpents, a leopard, and four living bear cubs were transmitted to their respective destinations by the medium of the post! A Hamburg postmaster remarks on this subject that some means should be taken to force the public to use some discernment in the manner in which they profit by the complaisance of the postal administration; for, says he, "the screaming and chattering of parrots, the singing and chirping of myriads of birds, the shrill cries of monkeys or whining of puppies disconsolate at the absence of the maternal, forms at times a discordant concert which is more suited to the precincts of a zoological garden than to the interior of a post-office."

The *Times* Dublin correspondent writes under date 4th March:—"Some light was incidentally let in yesterday upon the process of making beer, which the advocates of temperance may, perhaps, turn to account in depicting the character of the liquor traffic. It produced a rather startling effect upon the Master of the Rolls and the persons in his Court who witnessed it. Messrs. Gillman and Spencer, consulting brewers and analytical chemists, carrying on business at St. George's-road, Southwark, have instituted proceedings against the Messrs. Manders, well-known brewers of this city, claiming £1,000 damages for the infringement of a patent for fining and preserving beer, ale, or porter, and restoring them when sour. Interrogatories were submitted to the defendants, who were called upon to state whether, between March and July, 1878, they used in restoring or fining beer, ale, &c., sucrate of lime or sugar and coleic oxide; whether they had not cured 2,000 hogsheads of beer which had become 'sick,' and whether they had used any other additional materials. The defendants replied that they used the form uniformly used in restoring or fining beer—pure lime or whiting, or both mixed; that the custom of using these ingredients was common among the brewers of Dublin; that the firm had used lime for 20 years, and that worts, or sugar worts, or both, were also used. Then they supplied a long recipe for a particular process which they adopted, one of the ingredients having the attractive name of grains of paradise. Counsel for the plaintiffs applied for an order to compel them to give a specific answer, and his Honour, holding their answer to be illusory, granted the order."

Miscellaneous Intelligence.

BIRTHS.

At Chefoo, on the 17th April, the wife of HENRY A. MCINNES, I. M. Customs, of a daughter.

At Wênchow, on the 6th April, the wife of J. M. ELSHOUT, I. M. Customs, of a daughter, stillborn.

At Hillside, Kulangsoo, Amoy, on 30th March, the wife of HENRY ÆNEAS SIDFORD, I. M. Customs Service, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

PETER LUDWIG PETERSEN, born at Hadersleben (Schleswig) on the 20th May, 1835, departed this life at Pagoda Anchorage, Foochow, on the 19th April, 1879.

At Paris, on the 23rd Feb., JEAN BAPTISTE GUERIN, aged 50, formerly of the Foochow Arsenal.

At Cannes, on the 24th Feb., JULES GIQUEL, formerly of the Foochow Arsenal.

PASSENGERS.

DEPARTED.

Per str. *Nagoya Maru*, for Yokohama—Mr. E. Wex. For San Francisco—Rev. and Mrs. J. F. Crossette. For Liverpool—Mr. E. Robinson.

Per str. *Fuyew*, for Hongkong—Mr. J. M. Colgan.

Per str. *Europe*, for Foochow—Chief Justice French, and Mr. Li Muk Chin.

Per str. *Shun Lee*, for Tientsin—Revs. Barry and F. F. Gough.

Per str. *Kiangfoo*, for Hankow—Messrs. J. H. Logan, Scharoff and Startseff.

Per str. *Haeshin*, for Tientsin — Major Vertue and Mr. Smith.

Per str. *Kiangteen*, for Ningpo—Mr. H. B. Brady.

Per str. *Gleneagles*, for Yokohama—Mrs. Arther, Messrs. R. P. Hunter, J. O. Fuller, Harris, Hoeningham and Minich.

Per str. *Fungshun*, for Chefoo—Mr. Lunt. For Tientsin—Mr. F. Peil.

Per str. *Tahyew*, for Foochow — Messrs. Rawlinson, T. S. Laisun and J. Marien.

Per str. *Appin*, for Tientsin—Mr. A. Blondel and two missionaries.

Per str. *Kiangyung*, for Hankow—Mr. and Mrs. Ponomareff, Messrs. E. G. Webb, J. M. Molchanoff and E. G. C. Webb. For Chinkiang—Capt. Popp.

Per str. *Kiangteen*, for Ningpo—Dr. Zachariæ, Miss G. Cumming and Mr. H. Tornoë.

Per str. *Shanghai*, for Hankow — Messrs. Almeida and Severin.

ARRIVED.

Per str. *Sindh*, from Marseilles—Mr. and Mrs. Ruyter, Mr. and Mrs. McCarthy, H.E. von Brandt (German Minister), Messrs. M. R. Mackellar, Rowley Miller, W. G. Gordon, R. H. Percival, Noel Smith, P. Evans, F. S. Deacon, Buissonnet, Larken, Laidrich, Mia Jun-pao, Taylor, Hunneux, Pigott, Conetharde and Hunt. From Hongkong—Major W. Vertue, Messrs. Serre, Duby, M. B. Brady and Pitts.

Per str. *Newchwang*, from Amoy—Messrs. Campbell, Sloan and J. Muberg.

Per str. *Yungning*, from Wenchow—Mr. A. E. Jones.

Per str. *Europe*, from Foochow—Rev. Bishop T. Gentili and attendant, and Miss Gordon Cummings.

Per str. *Hankwang*, from Tientsin—Mrs. Green and family.

Per str. *Shun Lee*, from Tientsin—Mr., Mrs., and Miss McIlraith.

Per str. *Genkai Maru*, from Japan—Mrs. Cowles, Miss Bernard, Dr. H. Collier, Messrs. J. Gittins, F. W. Nield, J. Samson, C. Cole, W. J. Garduer, R. G. Ogle, J. Lister Pinn, A. A. Fletcher, A. Blondel, and R. Bishop.

Per str. *Foochow*, from Swatow and Amoy—Mr. St. Croix.

Per str. *Ping-on*, from Tientsin and Chefoo—Dr. Henderson.

Per str. *Glencoe*, from Japan—Messrs. D. C. Jansen, W. M. L. Tweedie, P. Whittal, J. Bisset, T. Robertson and E. Pye.

Per str. *Gleneagles*, from London—Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Dodwell, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Carlson, and Mr. Olsung.

Per str. *Gwalior*, from Southampton—Mr. Letchford. From Venice—Mr. and Mrs. F. Major, Mr. and Mrs. Blair, and Mr. Anderson. From Brindisi—Messrs. Bourke and Hole. From Suez—Rev. Zenone Meltner, and Rev. A. Faay. From Bombay—Mr. Wilson. From Hongkong—Mr. M. de Souza.

Per str. *Shanghai*, from Hankow—Mr. and Mrs. White and three children, Mr. and Mrs. Greig and child.

Per str. *Haeting*, from Tientsin and Chefoo—Mr. Cottam.

Per str. *Sin Nanzing*, from Tientsin—Mr. Moore.

LEAVING.

Per str. *Nizam*, for Southampton—Captain Jago, Captain Mirrielles, Mr. Joseph Sullivan, and Mr. F. W. White's three children and European female servant. For Bombay—Mr. Isaac Ezra. For Hongkong—Dr. Herbert Collies and Mr. Alfred Fletcher.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

Day of Month.	Barometer. 9 A.M.	Barometer. Attached Therm.	Thermometer in shade. Max.	Thermometer in shade. Min.	Hygrometer at 9.00 A.M. Dry bulb.	Hygrometer at 9.00 A.M. Wet bulb.	Wind. Force.	Wind. Direction	Rain-fall in inches previous 24 hours.
Apr	″	°	°	°	°	°			
17	30.10	50.0	63.0	45.0	49.0	47.3	1	E.	..
18	29.88	56.5	62.0	44.0	56.0	56.0	1	S.	0,07
19	29.89	62.0	65.0	56.0	62.0	60.0	2	W.	..
20	30.16	56.2	73.1	50.4	53.8	48.2	6	N.	..
21	30.15	53.0	60.0	48.0	48.0	46.0	1	E.	..
22	29.99	58.8	63.5	46.4	55.2	52.5	4	S. S. E.	..
23	30.00	61.8	68.0	55.0	67.0	64.5	4	S. S. E.	..

EXPLANATION.

Initials:—b. blue sky; c. clouds; f. fog; h. hail; l. lightning; m. misty (hazy); o. overcast (dull); r. rain; s. snow; t. thunder; z. calm. Force from 1 to 12, estimated.

PRICE OF THE *NORTH-CHINA HERALD and S. C. & C. GAZETTE*.—Per Annum, Taels 12; Six Months, Taels 6.50. Three Months, 3.50—*all payable in advance*. Credit price, Tls. 13.15 per Annum; Subscriptions will be considered as renewed unless notice to the contrary be given before the expiry of the current term.

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EXPORT OF TEAS FROM SHANGHAI AND RIVER PORTS.—SEASON 1878-9.—*Continued.*

TO JAPAN AND COAST PORTS AND AMERICA.

VESSEL'S NAME.	DATE	CLEARED FOR	BLACK.	GREEN.	TOTAL.
			Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Tokio Maru ... s.s.	July 2	Nagasaki	3.30	.....	3.30
Anchises..... ,,	... 9	New York	1.65	.....	1.65
Glenorchy ..... ,,	... 16	,,	1,206.57	1,210.07	2,416.64
Saikio Maru ... ,,	... 22	,,	70.98	334.54	405.52
,, ... ,,	... 22	Chicago	.....	111.32	111.32
,, ... ,,	... 22	San F'cisco	.....	129.48	129.48
Gordon Castle.. ,,	... 27	New York	1,093.68	1,852.37	2,946.05
Hiroshima Maru ,,	Aug. 6	,,	1.01	692.15	693.16
,, ... ,,	... 6	Chicago	51.50	.....	51.50
Saikio Maru ... ,,	... 22	New York	208.40	207.12	415.52
,, ... ,,	... 22	Chicago	.....	784.94	784.94
,, ... ,,	... 22	San F'cisco	17.81	1.73	19.54
Gleniffer..... ,,	... 31	New York	235.94	2,528.51	2,814.00
Nagaya Maru.. ,,	Sep. 10	,,	1.64	493.60	495.24
Nagoya Maru .. ,,	... 10	Chicago	212.70	550.46	763.19
,, ... ,,	... 10	San F'cisco	6.30	115.23	121.53
Merionethshire. ,,	... 19	New York	687.04	9,185.70	9,872.74
City of Santiago ,,	... 26	,,	.....	3,517.72	3,517.72
Hiroshima Maru ,,	Oct. 2	Chicago	16.34	960.37	976.71
,, ,,	... 2	San F'cisco	9.00	112.69	121.69
,, ,,	... 2	New York	.....	699.40	699.40
,, ,,	... 2	Yokohama	5.54	.....	5.54
Ocean King..... ,,	... 10	New York	33.97	6,807.34	6,841.31

TO JAPAN AND COAST PORTS AND AMERICA.—*Continued.*

VESSEL'S NAME.	DATE	CLEARED FOR	BLACK.	GREEN.	TOTAL.
			Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Gleneagles ..... s.s.	Oct. 15	New York	.....	3,980.98	3,980.98
Genkai Maru... ,,	... 14	,,	.....	440.01	440.01
,, ... ,,	... 14	,,	.....	487.93	487.93
Braemar Castle ,,	... 29	Chicago	2.27	6,036.69	6,038.96
Hiroshima Maru ,,	... 29	New York	930.43	.....	930.43
Genkai Maru ... ,,	Nov 15	,,	.....	30.01	30.01
Glenfinlas ..... ,,	... 15	San F'cisco	0 18	7,692.80	7,692.98
Haydn Brown... s.v.	... 22	New York	416.40	1,647.65	2,064.05
Glenartney..... s.s.	... 29	,,	22.32	7,405.02	7,427.34
Nagoya Maru... ,,	Dec. 3	,,	.....	881.38	881.38
J. R. Worcester s.v.	... 13	,,	.....	4,773.18	4,773.18
Glenlyon..... s.s.	... 28	,,	.....	5,946.17	5,946.17
Tokio Maru ... ,,	Jan. 16	Chicago	.....	52.80	52.80
,, ... ,,	... 16	New York	.....	50.38	50,38
Golden State ... s.v.	Feb. 3	,,	.....	6,557.15	6,557.15
Genkai Maru ... s.s.	... 4	Chicago	.....	1,088.77	1,088.77
,, ... ,,	... 4	New York	.....	10.77	10.77
Cyphrenes ..... ,,	... 8	,,	13.30	2,913.81	2,927.11
Mary Whitridge s.v.	Mar. 6	,,	.....	1,600.17	1,600.17
Priam ..... s.s.	... 18	,,	.....	26.61	26.61
Hiroshima Maru ,,	... 18	Chicago	.....	606.16	606.16
Total.....			7,791.16	82,523.18	90,314.34

SHANGHAI OPIUM AND SILK RETURNS FOR SEASON COMMENCING JUNE 1, 1878.

FROM IMPERIAL MARITIME CUSTOMS.

SILK.

	TO GREAT BRITAIN.	TO MARSEILLES AND CONTINENT.	TO AMERICA.	TO HONG-KONG, COAST PORTS, &c.	TOTAL CHINA.	JAPAN TRANSSHIPPED.	GRAND TOTAL.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Total as per last Report	16,636	22,326	4,744	2,225	55,931		55,931
Subsequent Shipments	344	2,421	139	..	2,904	..	2,904
Total....	16,980	24,747	4,883	2,225	58,835	..	58,835

OPIUM

RETURN FOR WEEK ENDED 26TH APRIL, 1879.

IMPORTED	MALWA.		PATNA.		BENARES.		PERSIAN.	
	Chests.	Weight.	Chests.	Weight.	Chests.	Weight.	Chests.	Weight
Imported and stored on board Receiving Vessels	31	31.00	287	344.40	200	240.00	1	1.00
Imported and transhipped for re-exportation without being stored on board Receiving Vessels or landed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Imported direct to the shore	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total.....	31	31.00	287	344.40	200	240.00	1	1.00
Landed from Receiving Vessels and intended chiefly for Local consumption	31	31.00	243	291.60	136	163.20	..	..

Description.	Chinkiang.		Wuhu.		Kiukiang.		Hankow.		Chefoo.		Tientsin.		Newchwang.		Ningpo.		Wênchow.		Foochow.		Hongkong.		Total.	
RE-EXPORTED.	Chts.	Wght.	Chts.	Wght.	Chts.	Wght.	Chts.	Wght.	Chts.	Wght.	Chts.	Wght.	Chts.	Wght.	Chts.	Wght.	Chts.	Wght.	Chts.	Wght	Chts.	Wght.	Chts.	Wght.
Malwa	271½	271.50	61½	61.50	50½	50.50	82½	82.50	65	65.00	12	12.00	..	..	60	60.00	..	..	..	..	..	..	603	603.00
Patna.....	21	25.20	..	..	..	..	5	6.00	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2.40	2	2.40	..	..	75	90.00	105	126.00
Benares	19	22.80	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	22.80
Persian	15	16.00	1½	1.50	4	4.00	..	..	7	7.00	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	10.00	50	50.00	87½	87.50
Turkey	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total..	326½	334.50	63	63.00	54½	54.50	87½	88.50	72	72.00	12	12.00	..	..	62	62.40	2	2.40	10	10.00	125	140.00	814½	839.30

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

SHANGHAI, 28TH APRIL, 1879.

PIECE GOODS.—The past week has been very like the previous one, private sellers have had a dull time, and have made very few sales except of English Drills, American Sheetings and White Shirtings, buyers have been constantly feeling the market making offers to see if holders would give way, and finding them all firm, have been able to really buy sufficient for the moderate demand, at the Auctions, which continue as large as before. The large sale of Grey Shirtings on the 22nd went off better than some expected, the best quality alone losing part of the advance noted last week, whilst the medium and common qualities recovered a further 2 to 3 candareens. A few T-Cloths are selling quietly, and White Shirtings still go off steadily, common reeds and qualities being most wanted; there has been a fair demand for English Drills, fine qualities especially being constantly asked for, but American Drills have been neglected, and the few sold at Auction show lower rates. Sheetings, both English and American, are still wanted, but the latter sells at irregular rates for whilst Indian Head quality rises, Massachussetts falls in value. The Woollen market still much depressed, and the Auctions give constantly lower rates.

P.S.—Some of the Shirtings at to-day's Auction went lower, and a large quantity of 8¼-lbs. are again advertised for to-morrow.

GREY SHIRTINGS.—8¼-lbs.—Sales are 21,000 pieces of Blue Joss at $1.64, Horse and Jockey at $1.59, Blue Anchor at $1.58, Lion and Flag, and Green Phœnix at $1.57, Blue Fish at $1.55, Green Joss at $1.51, Large Eagle at $1.39, and Blue Phœnix at $1.38, Red Ram (mildewed) at $1.56.

There has been but a small demand during the week, and the majority of business has been done at the Auctions, as can seen by the particulars below, and at which it may be noticed that common and medium quality Shirtings have further improved in value. With the high quotations in Manchester, holders generally require full rates, and are not pressing their goods, on the other hands goods are coming in freely, and it is evident that re-exports cannot continue on anything like the scale of the first three months of this year, unless we soon have another burst of business from the North, a thing that usually happens not over three times in the year.

7-lbs. and 6-lbs.—Little has been done, beyond the sale of a few Steamer at $1.25, a few goods are wanted, and supplies are still very small, but enough for this season.

9/12-lbs.—The demand has fallen off, and the only sale of heavy goods is 3,750 pieces English Man and Gun 12-lbs. at T2.60, to arrive.

T-CLOTHS, 7-lbs.—Sales are 9,500 pieces of 2-Fish, and Buffalos at $1.18, Red Joss at $1.15, and Green Joss at $1.12; only small quantities of goods are wanted.

8-lbs.—The sales are 3,000 pieces of Dewhurst's Eagle X X at $1.48, Steamer at $1.39, and Collie Lion at $1.29; the market is very quiet.

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6-lbs.—None have been sold, but they are still wanted for Newchwang.

White Shirtings.—Sales are 10,500 pieces of Taiping Eagle at ₮1.90, Dewhurst's Eagle 64-reed at ₮1.87, Gold Pagoda at ₮1.89, Gold Joss at ₮1.80, Red Pheasant at ₮1.77, and Gold Bird at ₮1.65; also 500 pieces 60-reed Hand chop at ₮1.57½, and 1,500 pieces 56-reed Black Stag at ₮1.56; at the end of the week there was a fair demand, and prices are firm.

Drills, English.—Sales of 14-lbs. are 7,880 pieces Levita's double Dragon at ₮1.87½ to 1.89, Pillar at ₮1.80 to 1.81, and ordinary Dragon at ₮1.77 to 1.80; there has been some enquiry for these goods, but it chiefly runs on good qualities, ₮1.87½ is refused for Double Dragon, and enquiries are frequent for fine 15-lbs. goods.

In American, again nothing has been done, and the few sold at Auction went at low rates; holders are firm, waiting for the demand for Newchwang which has not yet set in.

Sheetings.—Sales of English are 2,000 pieces 14-lbs. Dragon at ₮2.10 to 2.10½, and these goods are still wanted. Of American, 3,900 pieces Massachussetts were sold at ₮2.70 nett, and 800 pieces Indian Head and Massachussetts at ₮2.90½ and ₮2.73 respectively, the former being worth now ₮2.92½ and the latter no more than ₮2.70, also 525 pieces 9½-lbs. Cock at ₮1.97½, the demand still comes from Tientsin, where they require the Indian Head chop, which therefore rises in value, whilst Massachussetts (which generally go to Newchwang) falls.

Jeans.—Nothing has been done.

Fancy Goods.—Velvets are selling without change, 600 pieces Woman chop having been booked at ₮0.13; Turkey Red Cambrics are a little higher. Cotton Lastings, Plain and Figured, are in fair demand.

Woollens.—Camlets have again fallen pretty heavily, more especially Scarlet; Long Ells are also lower, 100 pieces Scarlet V were sold at ₮5.75, and Spanish Stripes show a further fall; of Figured Orleans, 1,800 pieces Hankow pattern were sold at ₮3.50, and 600 pieces Tientsin at ₮3.30, good colors.

Kin-Ming, 22nd inst.	Scarlet.	Dk. Blue.	Gentian.	Lt. Gt.	Black.	Purple.	Green.	Orange.	Mauve.	Ash & Lav.	White.	Total Sales
Camlets C.P.H. p. pce. ₮	11.43/6	13.60/72	12/12.01	12.80/13.23	11.90	......	......	......	......	......	...	...
Sales, pcs...	360	100	50	100	10	......	......	......	......	......	...	620
Long Ells C.P.H. p. pce. ₮	6.18/20	6.05/8	5.32½	......	5.32	6.21	6.38/9	5.88	......	......	..	...
Sales, pcs...	1,000	60	20	......	20	60	40	20	......	......	...	1,220
Lasting, Lion p. pce. ₮	......	......	......	......	9.80/9	......	......	......	......	......	...	140
,, Elephant p. pce. ₮	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	...	...
S. Stripes C.P.H. p. yd. ₮	0.51.7/51.9	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	...	...
Sales, pcs...	192	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	...	192
E-wo, 23rd inst.												
Camlets H.D.B. p. pce. ₮	11.12½/17½	12.32½/40	11.42½/7½	12.37½/40	11.50	......	......	......	......	......	...	...
Sales, pcs...	80	50	30	30	10	......	......	......	......	......	...	200
Long Ells H.D.B. p. pce. ₮	6.05/8	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	...	...
Sales, pcs...	260	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	...	260
Sp. Stripes ,, p. yd. ₮	0.50¾/51	0.52¾	0.62/2¼	......	0.48	......	0.54.9	......	......	......	...	...
Sales, pcs...	60	6	42	......	6	......	6	......	......	......	...	120
Yuen-Fong, 24th inst.												
Camlets S.S.G. p. pcs. ₮	10.90/2½	12.25/7½	11.10/15	12.02½/10	11.85/42½	......	12.95/13.05	12.92½	11.27½/42½	......	12.30	...
Sales, pcs...	210	30	160	20	20	......	20	10	30	......	10	510
,, G.G. per pcs. ₮	11.05	12.32½	11.17½	12.17½	......	......	......	......	11.32½	......	...	...
Sales, pcs...	50	10	40	10	......	......	......	......	10	......	...	120
Long Ells ,, per pcs. ₮	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	...	...
Sales, pcs...	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	...	...
S. Stripes T.T.B. p. yd. ₮	0.52½/2¾	0.53½	0.64¼/4½	......	......	0.50	......	0.53¼	......	......	0.56¾	...
Sales, pcs...	132	24	60	......	......	12	......	12	......	......	12	252
Miscellaneous.												
Sp. Stripes, Horse p. yd. ₮	0.57½	0.51.9	0.56.7	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	...	...
Sales, pcs...	* 6	6	† 6	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	...	18
Long Ells, U.U. p. pce. ₮	6.06	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	...	40

* 3 Scarlet and 3 Gentian. † 3 Gentian and 3 Dark Blue.

Auction Sales of Cotton Goods—

"*King Ming.*"—22nd instant—

	Red Ram.	Blue Ram.	Blue Lion.	Red Lion.	Green Lion.	Red Eagle.	B. Eagle (dam.)	Gr. Peacock.	
Grey Shirtings—8¼-lbs.	₮1.59/59½	₮1.57½	₮1.56¾	₮1.57/57¾	₮1.44¼/47½	—	—	₮1.38¾	
Sales, pcs.	8,200	6,200	650	3,050	2,050	—	—	500	=20,650 pcs.

7-lbs. Green Peacock at ₮1.15¾ to 1.16 ... = 1,500 ,,

"*Nie Kee.*"—22nd instant—

	Sun, 12-lbs.	Eagle, 2¾-lbs.	Fisherman, 2½/2¾-lbs.	Bull Head, 2½-lbs.	Fish, 2.10-lbs.	Green Dragon, 2¾-lbs.	
Turkey Red Cambrics.........	₮1.13¾	—	₮1.45/1.48	₮1.20¼	₮1.26½	₮1.35½	
Sales, pcs..	45	—	187	78	240	240	= 790 ,,

Velvets—Woman at ₮0.12.30; Buffalo and Woman at ₮0.13.10; Woman and Stag at ₮0.11.70 ... = 340 ,,
Turkey Red T-Cloths—Jar 4½-lbs. at ₮2.86 ... = 150 ,,
Velveteens—18-inch Stag at ₮0.11.57½ to 0.60 ... = 96 ,,
Grey Shirtings—9¼-lbs. Red Dragon at ₮2.01½ to 2.02¼ (mildewed) ... = 1,050 ,,
10-lbs. Blue Dragon, at ₮1.86 to 2.17, Blue Joss at ₮1.98, and Red Fish at ₮1.83 to ₮1.86¼ (all damaged)... = 650 ,,
8¼-lbs. Blue Joss at ₮1.13½ to 1.57¾ (damaged) ... = 700 ,,

"*E-Wo.*"—23rd instant—

White Shirtings—No. 500 at ₮2.19½ ... = 150 ,,
Turkey Red Cambrics—2 to 3-lbs. ₮1.10 to 1.26½ ... = 1,100 ,,
Irishes—Blue Dragon at ₮2.65 ... = 99 ,,
American Drills—P M C D at ₮2.73—150 pcs.; Horse at ₮2.69¼—150 pcs.; Cock at ₮2.66—150 pcs. ... = 450 ,,
American Sheetings—Indian Head at ₮2.88—400 pcs.; Horse at ₮2.72—400 pcs. ... = 800 ,,

"*Yuen-fong.*"—24th instant—

Grey Shirtings—8¼-lbs. House (damaged) ₮1.19¾ to 1.33½—750 pcs.; Two-Man at ₮1.37—2,000 pcs. ... = 2,750 ,,
9.12-lbs. Man and Gun at ₮2.04½ to 2.05¾ ... = 1,500 ,,
T-Cloths—7-lbs. Camel at ₮0.99 to 1.00¾ ... = 1,000 ,,
American Drills—P M C D at 2.72¾ ... = 750 ,,

"*Tseang-tae.*"—25th instant—

	Red Buffalo.	Red Cormorant.	Black Cormorant.	Green Cormorant.	Red Head (damg.)	Red Ship.	
Grey Shirtings—8¼-lbs......	₮1.53/53¼	₮1.53¾/54	₮1.41/41½	₮1.35	₮1.52¼	₮1.39/39¼	
Sales, pcs..	250	500	250	250	250	250	= 2,000 ,,

7-lbs. Red Cormorant at ₮1.33½; Red Ship (damaged) at ₮1.16½ ... = 300 ,,
9.12-lbs. Blue Horse Head at ₮2.12½ to 2.12¾—200 pcs.; Green Horse Head at ₮2.03½ to 2.03¾—500 pcs.;
Black Cormorant at ₮1.91¼ to 1.91¾—250 pcs. ... = 950 ,,
White Shirtings—No. 108 at ₮1.58½ ... = 250 ,,
Irishes—Woman at ₮2.16 ... = 100 ,,

Sundry Auctions—

Turkey Red Cambrics—Jar, 2 to 2¾-lbs. ₮1.25 to 1.43½; Stag, 3-lbs. at ₮1.31½ to 1.31¾ ... = 2,800 ,,
Velvets—22-inch Woman at ₮0.13.37½ ... = 140 ,,
Grey Shirtings—9.12-lbs. Eagle. at ₮1.97¾ to 2.04½; Stag, ₮2.11½ to 2.21¾; Dutch Dragon, at ₮1.93 to 1.95 (all damaged) = 1,700 ,,
Do. 8¼-lbs. Red Fish, at ₮1.40¾; Blue Fish, at ₮1.38¼ ... = 1,300 ,,
Do. 8¼-lbs. Stag, at ₮1.33 to 1.34; Dragon, at ₮1.04 to 1.08; Black Railway at ₮1.47 (damaged) ... = 1,200 ,,
Do. 7-lbs. Cock, at ₮1.17 to 1.24 (damaged) ... = 100 ,,
Do. 6-lbs. Stag, at ₮1.08½ to 1.09½; Dragon, at ₮1.05 to 1.07¼ (damaged) ... = 550 ,,
T-Cloths—7-lbs. Stag VV, at ₮1.23½ to 1.30; Silver Dog, at ₮1.13 (damaged) ... = 450 ,,
8-lbs. Stag VV, at ₮1.77¼; 6-lbs. do., at ₮0.90¼ (damaged) ... = 150 ,,
Jeans—8-lbs. Stag, at ₮1.60; Dutch Buffalo, at ₮1.62¼ (damaged) ... = 180 ,,
Cotton Lastings—Stag, at ₮1.60 to 2.37 (damaged) ... = 60 ,,

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ARTICLES.	QUOTATIONS.		
Cotton Piece Goods.	*T.m.c.*		*T.m.c.*
G. E. GREY SHIRTINGS—			
38½ yds. 39 in. 6-lbs. ..... per piece	1.1.0	@	1.2.0
7-lbs. ..... ,,	1.1.6	,,	1.4.7
8½ to 8¾-lbs. ..... ,,	1.3.7	,,	1.7.2
Dewhurst XX ..... ,,	1.7.4	,,	.....
9 to 9½-lbs. ..... nom.	1.9.0	,,	2.0.5
9.12 to 10-lbs. common quality ..... ,,	1.9.2	,,	2.3.5
best quality..... ,,	2.4.0	,,	2.5.5
G. E. WHITE SHIRTINGS—			
40 yds. 36 in. 56 reed ..... ,,	1.5.0	,,	1.6.0
60 reed ..... nom. ,,	1.5.5	,,	1.6.5
64 reed ..... ,,	1.6.5	,,	1.7.5
64 reed best ..... ,,	1.7.5	,,	1.9.0
66 to 72 reed ..... ,,	1.9.0	,,	2.1.0
best ..... ,,	2.1.0	,,	2.6.0
AMERICAN DRILLS—			
40 yds. 30 in. 14-lbs..... ,,	2.7.0	,,	2.7.7½
AMERICAN JEANS—			
30 yds. 30 in. 6½ to 8-lbs. ..... ,,	1.4.0	,,	2.2.5
AMERICAN SHEETINGS—			
40 yds. 40 in. 14-lbs. best ..... ,,	2.6.7½	,,	2.9.2½
ENGLISH DRILLS—			
40 yds. 30 in. 14 to 15-lbs..... ,,	1.7.5	,,	1.9.0
best ..... ,,	2.0.0	,,	2.2.0
ENGLISH JEANS—			
30 yds. 30 in. 8 to 8½-lbs. ..... ,,	1.3.0	,,	1.8.0
ENGLISH SHEETINGS—			
40 yds. 40 in. 14 *a* 16-lbs. ..... ,,	1.9.7	,,	2.2.0
DUTCH DRILLS—			
30 in. 40 yds..... ,,	2.0.5	,,	2.3.0
DUTCH JEANS—			
30 in. 40 yds..... ,,	1.6.0	,,	1.9.0
T-CLOTHS—			
6-lbs. 24 yds. 32 in. Ordinary. ..... ,,	0.8 8	,,	0.9.2
7-lbs. ,, ,, ,, ... ,,	0.9.4	,,	1.0.3
7-lbs. ,, Mexican ..... ,,	1.0.5	,,	1.5.0
8 *a* 8½-lbs. 36 in. ..... ,,	1.2.3	,,	1.6.5
XX and best ..... ,,	1.7.0	,,	1.9.0
HANDKERCHIEFS, Blue, 28 in. to 32 in. per doz.	0.4.5	,,	0.5.5
Brown, 28 in. ..... ,,	0.4.0	,,	0.4.2
GENTIAN SHIRTINGS ..... per piece	2.0.0	,,	2.4.0
BROCADES, White, 40 yds. 36 in., nom. ,,	1.6 0	,,	1.7.0
Dyed, Assorted..... ,,	2.3.0	,,	2.6.0
DAMASKS, Assorted, 40yds. 26 in., nom. per piece	3.8.0	,,	4.2.0
CHINTZ, Assorted, 28 yds. 28 in. ..... ,,	1.3.0	,,	1.4.5
Blue ..... ,,	1.1.8	,,	1.2.3
Brown ..... nom. ,,	1.2.0	,,	1.3.5
Scarlet..... nom. ,,	1.3.0	,,	1.5.0
TURKEY REDS, 24yds. 32in. 2¼ to 3-lbs. ,,	1.1.0	,,	1.6.0
VELVETS, Black, 22 in. ..... per yard	0.1.2¾	,,	0.1.6½
VELVETEENS, Black, 18 in. ..... ,,	0.1.1½	,,	0.1.3
26 in. ..... ,,	0.1.5½	,,	0.1.8
MUSLINS, 12 yds. 42 in. ..... per piece	0.6.0	,,	0.6.8
DIMITIES, 12 yds. 36 in. ..... ,,	1.0.0	,,	1.2.0
41 in. ..... ,,	1.2.0	,,	1.5.0
YARN, Cotton, Nos. 28 *a* 32 ..... per bale	65 0.0	,,	80.0.0
SPANISH STRIPES, Assorted..... per yard	0.4 8	,,	0.5 5
MEDIUM and HABIT CLOTHS ..... ,,	0.7.0	,,	1.0.5

ARTICLES.	QUOTATIONS.		
	T.m.c.		*T.m.c*
BROAD CLOTH..... per yard	1.2.5	@	1 6.0
CAMLETS—			
English, *SS*, 56 yds. 31 in. Assorted. per piece	11.0.0	,,	11.7.5
LONG ELLS—			
Scarlet, 24 yds. 31 in. 12-lbs. ..... ,,	5.7.5	,,	6.4.0
Assorted ..... ,,	5.7.5	,,	6.3.0
LASTINGS, 30 yds. 31 in. ..... ,,	7.1 5	,,	11.0.0
CRAPE LASTINGS, 30 yds. 31 in. Asst. ,,	3.7.0	,,	7.5.0
,, LUSTRES, Assorted ..... nom. ,,	2.7.0	,,	3.2.5
ORLEANS, Figured, 30 yds. 30 in. Asst. ,,	3.1.5	,,	3 5.5
Plain, 30 yds. 31 in. Black. ,,	3.0.5	,,	3.3.5
Metals and Sundries.			
JAPAN COPPER—Slabs ..... per picul	15.6.0	,,	16.0.0
,, Ore..... ,,	14.5 0	,,	14.8.0
QUICKSILVER ..... ,,	48.0.0	,,	48.5.0
TIN PLATES— 14 × 10 ..... per box	4 0.0	,,	4.2.0
STEEL..... ..... per picul	2 8.0	,,	2.9.0
Bamboo ..... ,,	3 4.0	,,	3.6.5
TIN, Foong Hing ..... ,,	18 3.0	,,	.....
Quang-dia ..... ,,	16.7.0	,,	16.8.0
Fok Chok ..... ,,	16.9.0	,,	17.0.0
HOOP IRON ..... ,,	2.5.0	,,	2.6.0
PIG IRON ..... per ton	16.0.0	,,	18.0.0
IRON WIRE, Nos. 11 *a* 14 ..... per picul	4.3.0	,,	.....
,, ,, 11 *a* 21 ..... ,,	4.4 0	,,	.....
,, ,, 15 *a* 25 ..... ,,	5.2.0	,,	5.3.0
IRON—Nail Rod—			
Dawes' Best ..... per picul	2.0.5	,,	2.1.0
H. Rogers, Sons & Co. ..... ,,	1.9.5	,,	2.0.0
M.M. Crown..... ,,	1.8.5	,,	1.9.0
Belgian..... ,,	1.8.0	,,	1.8.5
Flat and Round ..... ,,	2.1.0	,,	2.6 0
Do. Belgian..... ,,	2.0.0	,,	2.0.5
LEAD, common brands ..... nom. per picul	3.8.0	,,	4.0.0
L B..... ,,	4.1.0	,,	4.1.5
SUGAR.			
Black, common ..... per picul	2.9.0	,,	3.3.0
,, Formosa ..... ,,	3.3.0	,,	3.6.0
White, No. 1 ..... ,,	6.5 0	,,	6 7.0
,, No. 2 ..... ,,	6.2 0	,,	6.3.0
,, No. 3 ..... ,,	5.4 0	,,	5.7.0
PEPPER— Black ..... ,,	6.2.0	,,	6.3.0
White .. .. ,,	10.5.0	,,	10.6.0
RATTANS—Common ..... per picul	2.2.0	,,	2.6.0
Good to fine .. .. ,,	3.0.0	,,	4 0.0
Best ..... ,,	4 5.0	,,	5 0.0
SAPAN WOOD—			
3 pieces to the picul ..... ,,	2 6.0	,,	2.7.0
6 & 7 ,, ,, & inf. ..... ,,	1.5.0	,,	1.7.0
SANDALWOOD, South Sea ..... ,,	8.0.0	,,	10.0.0
Timor ..... ,,	3.5.0	,,	3.9.0
Malabar ..... ,,	16.0.0	,,	18.0.0
WINDOW GLASS—			
Large .... nom. per box	2.1.5	,,	2.4.0
Small ..... ,,	1.9 0	,,	2 0.0
KEROSINE—Devoe's ..... per case	1.4.0	,,	1.5.0
COTTON—Shanghai ..... per picul	10.5.0	,,	12.0.0
FLINT STONES ..... ,,	0.5.5	,,	0.6.0

METALS.—Nothing has been doing in either Iron or Lead, and quotations are unchanged, buyers try to make out the Nail Rod Iron market as lower, but cannot as yet purchase on any easier terms.

KEROSINE OIL.—5,000 cases of damaged Oil were sold at Auction at $1.15 to 1.30; and further Auction Sales of Devoe's have been made at $1,42 to 1.43, only $1.40 is offering at present, and the Chinese are still the only sellers.

OPIUM.—Receipts of Opium since last report	MALWA,	1,169	Chests.		BENGAL,	857	Chests.
Stock on the 15th instant	,,	2,123	,,		,,	2,486	,,
Total...	,,	3,292	,,	Total...	,,	3,343	,,
Deliveries since the 15th instant	,,	1,044½	,,		,,	772	,,
Present Stock	,,	2,247½	,,		,,	2,571	,,
Against Stock same time last year	,,	1,689½	,,		,,	2,166	,,
Increase	,,	558	,,		,, Increase	405	,,

EXPORTS.

SILK.—We quote the following from Mr. W. T. Phipps' circular :—More activity at home with prices advanced 1s. per lb. from the lowest point touched has caused a sharp reaction on this side, and business was done for the French mail at Tls. 20 *a* 25 per picul higher than the quotations given in our last issue a fortnight since.

Present stocks are limited to 1,000 bales, and a good deal of the Tsatlee silk on offer is rejected cargo, which is being pressed for sale at a slight decline. Including some 400 bales of re-reels for America purchased at Tls. 355 *a* 375 for market descriptions, settlements for the period under review are about 3,000 bales, making a total of 62,000 bales since the season commenced.

Latest settlements are on a basis of—

	Per picul.	Per lb. Ex. 5/1 & 12 %
Blue Elephant	Tls. 380	= 16/7
Gold Stork	Tls. 370	= 16/2
Gold Elephant	Tls. 357½	= 15/7
Tung-sen's "Lan-ling"	Tls 355	= 15/6
"Van-shen"	Tls. 355	= 15/6
Common No. 5 Tatlees	Tls. 320	= 14/0
Sinuen-foug's "Ting-how" Kahing Taysaams	Tls. 375	= 16/5
Lo. "Gna-ling" do.	Tls. 355	= 15/6

From the producing districts reports are to hand that seed is plentiful and that the mulberry leaves are of good quality and are in full supply. Bale musters of the new crop will be rather later than usual in arriving and are not expected to be placed on this market *for sale* until the end of the first week in June.

P.S.—A few bales of S. S. S. Dollar chop were reported settled yesterday afternoon, at Tls. 345 per picul.

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COMMERCIAL POSTSCRIPT.

April 29, 1879.

Arrivals :—(Since our last report)—April 22nd, British steamer *Lord of the Isles*, from London ; M.M. steamer *Sindh*, with the French mails, &c. ; 23rd, American barque *Penang*, from Sydney ; British steamer *Syria*, from Sydney ; 26th, P. & O. steamer *Gwalior*, with the English mails, &c. ; 27th, British ship *Salamis*, from Sydney.

Departures :—(Since our last report)—April 23rd, M.M. steamer *Peiho*, with the French mails, &c. ; 26th, British steamer *Ajax*, for London viâ Suez Canal.

The P. & O. mail steamer *Nizam* takes about 370 bales of Silk.

Freights—*Kolga*, British barque, 359 tons, Nagasaki and back, 17 lay days, $980, in full ; *N. Mondelli*, British barque, 384 tons, Nagasaki and back, 18 lay days, $1,025, in full ; *Joyce Phillips*, British barque, 514 tons, Nagasaki and back, 20 lay days, $1,500, in full ; *Woollahra*, British barque, 941 tons, Chefoo to Swatow, 30 lay days, $0.15¾ per picul ; *Lydia*, British barque, 376 tons, Nagasaki and back, $1,050, in full, if to Ningpo, 18 lay days, $1,275, in full ; *Dilpussund*, British barque, 625 tons, Nagasaki and back, three trips, private terms ; *Anton Günther*, German barque 410 tons, Chefoo to Swatow, 22 lay days, $0.20 per picul ; *Formosa*, British schooner, 380 tons, Nagasaki to Ningpo, 20 lay days, $2.15 per ton coal ; *Korsor*, Danish barque, 317 tons, Chefoo to Amoy, $0.17 per picul, if to Swatow, 20 lay days, $0.20 per picul ; *America*, British steamer, 563 tons, Nagasaki and back, six trips, private terms ; *E. M. Young*, British barque, 344 tons, Newchwang to Foochow, 17 lay days, $0.21 per picul ; *Otto*, German barque, 231 tons, Chefoo to Amoy, 16 lay days, $0.17 per picul ; *Marie*, German barque, 428 tons, Newchwang to Swatow, 18 lay days, $0.19 per picul.

Exchange.—On London, Telegraphic Transfers, 4s. 10⅝d. Bank Bills, 4 months' sight, 5s. 0d. to 5s. 0¼d. ; 6 months' sight, 5s. 0d. to 5s. 0⅝d. First-class Credits to Bank, 4 months' sight, 5s. 0d. to 5s. 0⅝d. ; 6 months' sight, 5s. 0d. to 5s. 0⅝d. Private and Documentary, 4 months' sight, 5s. 0d. to 5s. 0¾d. ; 6 months' sight, 5s. 1d. On Paris, Bank, demand, 6.22. Private, 4 and 6 months' sight, 6.39 to 6.42 On India, Bombay Bank, demand, Rs. 304 to 307 ; Calcutta, Bank, demand, Rs. 304 to 307. On Hongkong, Bank Bills, demand, 27 per cent. disct. Private, 15 days' sight, 27½ per cent. disct. Bullion, Gold Bars, Peking, Shanghai Tls. 193.50 per bar of 10 Tls. Shanghai weight. Bar Silver, Shanghai Tls. 111.20 per 100 taels Canton weight. Mexican dollars, Shanghai Tls. 73.075 per 100. Copper Cash, 1,477 per tael.

SHARES.

Shanghai, 29th April, 1879.

Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.—One or two lots were placed locally at 49%, and exchange 72¾. The market afterwards weakened, and shares are now procurable at 48% premium. The Hongkong quotation is 47%.

Pootung Dock Co.—Business has been done at T96.

Union Insurance Society of Canton.—Shares have changed hands at $1,400.

Yangtsze Insurance Association.—The report and accounts for fifteen months ending 31st December last, were presented and passed at a meeting of shareholders held on the 25th instant. The net profits of the underwriting business, after paying T63,000 to shareholders, as interest at 12% on capital, and providing T33,155.51 to meet pending claims, were T107,000 ; which is divisible among policy holders, being equal to 33% on contributions. The special reserve fund now shews a balance at credit of T173,214.37, after deducting T21,000 paid to shareholders as extra dividend, and T33,155,51 carried forward to meet pending claims. The extra dividend of 5% was paid yesterday. No business is reported in this stock. The market is quiet at T732½, ex dividend.

Chinese Insurance Co.—A sale at $280 is reported.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Co.—Shares are offering at $750.

SHARES.	No.	Value.	Paid up.	Position per Last Report.			Last Dividend, &c.		Cash Quotations.
				Reserve.	At Working Account.	Date.	To Shareholders.	When pd. or due.	Closing.
Bank.									
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	40,000	$125	$125	$1,300,000	$29,525.50	31 Dec. 78	* £1	18 Feb. 79	48% prem.
Steamer Companies.									
Shanghai Steam Navigation Co. (in Liquidation)	22,500	T100	T6.50	......	......	30 Dec. 77	Return of T. 4 on capital.	9 Apr. 79	12¾
China Coast Steam Navigation Co.	5,000	T100	T100	T70,249.82	T24,587.54	31 Dec. 78	† 9 %	11 Mar. 79	96
Shanghai Tug Boat Association	900	T100	T100	......	......	......	4 %	21 Jan. 79	125
Docks.									
Shanghai Dock Co.	440	T500	T500	T10,109.90	......	30 June 78	* 2 %	8 Jan. 79	238
Pootung Dock Co.	950	T100	T100	.. ...	......	......	* 5 %	9 Jan. 79	96
Gas.									
Shanghai Gas Co.	1,500	T100	T100	T9,959.92	......	31 Dec. 78	* 5 %	20 Jan. 79	132
Compagnie du Gaz	500	T100	T100	T6,436.23	T11.42	31 Dec. 78	* 6 %	17 Feb. 79	145
Insurance (Marine.)									
China Traders' Insurance Co., Limited	600	1,666.67	$500	$225,000.00	$92,935.52	30 Apl. 78	12 %	31 July 78	1,300
North-China Ins. Co.,	1,000	T2,000	T600	T100,000.00	T285,657.76	31 Dec 78	T75	16 Apr. 79	1,175
Union In. Society of Canton ...	500	$2,500	$500	$262,132.10	$21,091.40	31 Dec. 77	† $113.37	30 Sep. 78	1,400
Yangtsze Insurance Association	1,200	T350	T350	T403,214.37	T9,723.76	31 Dec. 78	* 5 %	28 Apr. 79	732½ ex dividend.
Chinese Insurance Co., Limited	1,500	$1,000	$200	$74,133.82	......	30 Dec. 76	* 6 %	1 Jan. 79	280
Insurance (Fire.)									
Hongkong Fire In. Co., Limited	2,000	$1,000	$200	$701,842.00	$271,923.55	31 Dec. 78	†$57.95 p.sh.	26 Feb. 79	750
China Fire In. Co., Limited ...	4,000	$500	$100	$346,896.00	$164,354.46	31 Dec. 78	† 12 %	24 Feb. 79	175
Miscellaneous.									
Shanghai & H'kew Wharf Co...	2,150	T100	T100	T5,000.00	T2,000.86	31 Dec. 78	* 7 %	25 Feb. 79	151

LOANS.	Amount of Loan.	Nominal Value of Bonds or Debentrs.	Rate of Interest.	When Payable.	Closing.
Shanghai Mun. Debentures—Issue 1872	T 28,700.00	T 100.00	8 %	30th April & 31st Oct.	T103.64
Do. 1873	T 21,000.00	T 100.00	,,	30th June & 31st Dec.	T103.30
Do. 1875	T 42,800.00	T 100.00	,,	30th June & 31st Dec.	
Do. 1878	T 24,000.00	T 100.00	,,	30th June & 31st Dec.	T110 do.
Lyceum Theatre Ordinary Debentures..	T 17,000.00	T 25.00	,,	30th June.	T 13 ex int.
Do. Preference do.	T 5,362.50	T 37.50	5 %	31st Dec.	T 20 nom.
Chinese Imperial Government Loan 1874	£ 627,615	£ 100	8 %	30th June & 31st Dec.	£101 do.
Do. do. 1877	£ 1,604,276	£ 100	8 %	28th Feb. & 31st Aug.	£108
Do. do. 1878	T 1,949,500	T 500	8 %	April and October.	2% prem.

* For half-year † For year.

J. P. BISSET & Co.

The Weather has been cold and variable during the week, with occasional rain. To-day, however, is bright and warm. The thermometer has ranged from 45 to 73.

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